

THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 27th November, at Foochow, the wife of L. M. F. GRANT, of a son.

On the 12th December, at S. Szechuen Road, Shanghai, the wife of A. GIESEL, of a daughter.

On the 13th December, at Chemulpo, Corea, the wife of CARL WOLTER, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 18th December, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. C. J. F. Symons, B.A., WILLIAM WESTON CLIFFORD, to ALICE THERESA GIELING, youngest daughter of the late THOMAS MILBOUEN COOPER, R.A., of Herts, England.

On the 19th December, at the Peak Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, Chaplain, St. John's Cathedral, JOHN WILLIAM JONES, Barrister-at-Law, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, to AUGUSTA BLANCHE, the eldest daughter of the late AUGUSTUS CAMERON ROGERS, L.D.S., R.C.S.I., of Wexford, Ireland.

At the Registrar-General's Office, before Mr. J. J. Bullin, Deputy Registrar of Marriages, ETHEL LYDIA, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. SANFORD REICH, to CHARLES DUDLEY, fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE AYTON, of Leith, Scotland.

DEATHS.

On the 18th December, at sea, between Singapore and Colombo, FORBES SELBY, master of S.S. *Glenshiel*.

On the 15th December, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, JOHN CARTIS, aged 22 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The German Mail of the 22nd ult. per N.D.L. steamer *Bayern* arrived on the 25th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Cholera is now reported to have entirely disappeared from Nagasaki.

The Washington Senate has ratified the Commercial Treaty with China.

Commodore Robinson, H. M. S. *Tamar*, has been promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral.

The Chinese Ministers to Austria-Hungary and to Germany have been recalled. The reason is unknown here.

H.M.S. *King Alfred* has been commissioned to bring naval reliefs to the China squadron, and it is expected that she will remain on the station.

H.M.S. *Centurion* should probably arrive in Hongkong about the 2nd prox. Her return to the China station is very welcome, and it is to be hoped that she is but the precursor of other additions to the now much outnumbered British squadron.

The Japanese Minister in London is receiving from all parts of Great Britain offers of services in the event of war with Russia. Viscount Hayashi is deeply impressed, but under Japanese rules no foreigner can be employed on active military service.

Our special correspondent telegraphed from London on the 22nd December:—It transpires that Russia offered cash down for the two battleships built for the Chilean Government, the *Constitucion* and *Libertad*. Great Britain therefore stepped in and purchased them at once.

A telegram from Bizerta last week stated that a Russian squadron consisting of the battleship *Oslabya*, the cruisers *Aurora* and *Dmitri Donski*, and five destroyers under the command of Admiral Urenius would be reinforced by six destroyers in a few days, and would then sail for the Far East.

Mr. H. N. Allen, U. S. Minister, on his return to Seoul, is said to have presented to the Emperor of Corea an official document saying that His Majesty's promise to open Yongampho had been welcomed by the American nation, and that it was hoped that so soon as the Chinese Government opened Antung, Corea would open Wiju also.

15,000 from the Army, Navy, and Constabulary, and strong delegations from the provinces and the Labour Unions, escorted Governor Taft from the Malacanan Palace to the Luneta, where 50 steam launches accompanied him to the *Gaelic*. He arrived in Hongkong on the morning of the 27th, the *Gaelic* connecting with the Korea, which will await her.

In the "Tansan" case at Singapore, on the 18th December, judgment was given for Mr. Clifford Wilkinson with costs and damages. This was a case brought by Mr. Wilkinson against the firm of McAlister and Co. of Singapore, to restrain them from using the word "Tansan" as descriptive of the mineral waters for which that firm are the agents. Similar cases have been successfully brought in other parts of the East. "Tansan" is a Japanese word signifying natural spring water, and has been copyrighted by Mr. Wilkinson as descriptive of his speciality in mineral waters.

Lloyd's insurance has risen to 50 per cent. On cargoes to the Far East war risks have risen 5 per cent.

Our London correspondent, on the 23rd inst., wired the information that Great Britain and France are in active communication with the Japanese and Russian Governments, and mediation is possible.

The *Standard*'s correspondent at Tokyo wires that after the last conference between M. Komura and Baron Rosen, the Japanese Minister at S. Petersburg was instructed by telegraph to press for an early answer and to point out the danger of delay. At the last conference of the Cabinet and senior statesmen it was decided that Japan would have to make an appeal to arms if her demands were refused. The Premier and War Minister of Japan on the 24th inst. visited Marquis Ito and Count Yamagata; the meeting is believed to be in connection with important developments.

We understand that orders were given during the week to have everything in readiness for provisioning the British squadron in Eastern waters, and in consequence there was much activity in the Service Corps department. A day or two ago there was a time-test held with the purpose of ascertaining how long it would take to provision the ships on the station. Afterwards the provisions were again unshipped and sent back to the stores. It is said that 12,000 pairs of military boots, guaranteed to withstand ice and water, have just arrived for the commissariat here, also that a field hospital, larger than any one that has been sent out from home except to South Africa, has been despatched from England for the China Station. It is further stated that large consignments of medical and surgical material have been ordered from home.

The following important telegram reached us from our correspondent at Kobe under date 20th December, 9.20 p.m.:—A semi-official article published in the *Kokumin* (Tokyo) makes an important statement regarding the course the Japanese Government has pursued at the conferences held by the ministers concerning the questions in dispute with Russia. At the first conference, held on June 23rd, it was decided to adopt the policy that in view of Russia's refusal to evacuate Manchuria, the only satisfactory solution would be to secure a recognition of Corea as being entirely under Japanese influence, and that Manchuria should be opened to the world's trade with full recognition of China's sovereignty. The second conference was held on October 13th, five days after the date when Russia, according to her agreement, should have evacuated Manchuria. At the conference the Ministers considered how the decision previously arrived at could be carried into effect. The third took place on October 24th, when Japan's irreducible minimum was formulated and presented to the Russian representative. Russia's answer, which was delayed on various pretexts, was received only ten days ago—forty days after the Note was presented. The answer was of a temporizing nature. Thereupon a fourth conference was held at which the Japanese Ministers decided to adhere to their irreducible minimum. Should Russia refuse, the semi-official journal says Japan is fully equipped and ready for immediate action.

THE NORTHERN CRISIS.

(Daily Press, 22nd December).

The war scare has revived in an even more serious shape than before. It is six days ago now that REUTER, on the strength of the Agency's information from Tokyo, pronounced the situation with regard to Russo-Japanese relations to be very gloomy. All the latest telegrams, from home and from the North alike, go to confirm this. Alone to the other effect do we hear that "S. Petersburg continues to be the most hopeful of a pacific solution of the Japanese difficulty." This is what we should expect of S. Petersburg—that is to say, official S. Petersburg, for it is not likely that we should hear of the opinions of any other section of the Russian capital. But we venture to think that the "hopefulness" of S. Petersburg is part of the diplomacy of the Russian Government, which has all along been protesting its confidence in a peaceful issue, while getting ready busily for war. Russian faith of course has long been a byword, as in Roman times, with far less justice, was *Punica fides*. The folly of those who believe in Russian assurances has been demonstrated amply and often. No admittedly barbarous State is more shamelessly mendacious. Yet by the etiquette of diplomacy the Powers continue to deal with Russia as with an honourable nation. Some of the Powers have the excuse that it pays them to do so; but there are some at least that have not. We published yesterday a summary by our Kobe correspondent of a semi-official article in the Tokyo *Kokumin* on the various conferences held by the Japanese Ministers concerning the questions in dispute with Russia. From this it appears that Japan's attitude has been perfectly consistent and straightforward from the first. At the last conference, which took place within the last ten days (from the 20th instant), the Ministers decided to adhere to their irreducible minimum—which is not stated, but which presumably includes Japanese supremacy in Corea as undoubted as Russia's in Manchuria and the opening of certain ports in Manchuria to trade. Should this be refused by Russia, the *Kokumin* says, "Japan is fully equipped and ready for immediate action." The only meaning of this must be that Japan is prepared to land troops at once. It has been argued before that Japan is not likely to commence operations before the spring; but if the *Kokumin* is correct, the contrary seems to be the case. On the Russian side, too, there is a change of plans announced. It is only a few days since we were told that the Russian squadron now at Bizerta, on the Northern coast of Tunis, would not leave for the Far East until the end of January. Now REUTER states that the battleship *Oslabya*, the cruisers *Aurora* and *Dmitri Donski*, and five destroyers under the command of Admiral URENIUS, will be reinforced by six destroyers in a few days and will then sail for this part of the world. So important a movement cannot be passed over without challenge, if war is to come. If Japan does decide on immediate action, as suggested by the *Kokumin*, it is most unlikely that this new Russian squadron will be allowed to join the Pacific fleet without an effort to stop it. Indeed, it is certain that in event of a rupture an effort would be made to intercept it. The coaling question would be the great problem then awaiting solution, and in this regard Japan would have an immense advantage in South China waters. Only with the aid of France could Russian warships expect to supply themselves south of their own ports, and

France is confronted by the terms of the Anglo-Japanese agreement.

Most interesting naturally to us in Hongkong is the question what attitude Britain will take, if the worst happens and war does break out. Hitherto British influence has chiefly been used indirectly in restraining Japan. This is very right, but it must not be forgotten that it is Russian aggression, not Japanese, which we desire to check. It is too often overlooked that Russia's success in her designs in North-east Asia means not only the death-blow to Japan, but the absolute extinction of all but Russian influence in North China and Corea, the Russianisation of the Gulf of Pechili, and the end of British trade in that quarter of the Far East. So far there has been no sign of the British Government taking special precautions in view of the crisis. Two more battleships, we were told, are coming out; but only one is on its way and the growing superiority of Russia's fleet in these waters is unproductive of any effort on Britain's part. A demonstration of naval activity, perfectly pacific of course, could not fail to produce a great effect, but it is not made. In fact nothing seems to ruffle British Governmental calm. Yet, next to Japan, we stand to lose far more than any one nation or even any combination of European nations by the success of Russia's schemes. We say "European" because there is a non-European Power also concerned. Whether there are any hopes of the United States taking any action is most difficult to say. The treaty with China has been ratified whereby Moukden and Antung are to be opened; and an U.S. warship has just been despatched to Corea on a very slight pretext. It is hardly possible that the States will consent to see a clause of their treaty with China nullified by Russia. But, on the other hand, hostility to Russia is not a very good party-cry for a Presidential election, and the time of that election is at hand. Moreover, there is Panama to a tract the attention of all Americans. The States might prefer to step in at the end of a Russo-Japanese war. There is good precedent in international history.

(Daily Press, 25th December.)

The news arriving by way of London with regard to the existing crisis in the Far East has within the past few weeks been "seesawing" between good and bad, between peace and war. It is difficult even to make out what the general opinion of the better informed home Press is on the chances of a pacific issue. Quite recently the prospect has been declared gloomy. War has been judged possible, probable, even inevitable. Yesterday, however, REUTER's second telegram, dated the 22nd instant, announced a more hopeful feeling regarding the Far East in Japan itself and the absence of information in London of the imminence of war. This sounds satisfactory, but unfortunately it only carries on the see-saw movement of rumour of which we have spoken. From the North we have not received any news either way since our Kobe correspondents' message of the 20th instant. In Hongkong it seems the generally accepted idea in service circles, especially among those who have visited the North lately, that an outbreak of hostilities cannot be avoided and, indeed, that it must occur very soon. It is felt that the situation is now such that only two alternatives remain, that Russia must give way or Japan must present an ultimatum with which Russia will refuse to comply—not a very different situation, it may be remarked, from that of a couple of

months ago. Only the wonderful patience of the Japanese Government and nation has managed to protract matters so long. It is impossible to hope, and also absurd to wish for an indefinite further protraction of the present strain. Our London correspondent, in his telegram dated the 23rd instant, tells us that Great Britain and France are in active communication with Japan and Russia, and that mediation on their part is possible. Nevertheless, it is very hard to see how France and ourselves, though both most earnest in the desire to avoid a rupture which threatens to involve both, and perhaps destroy the greatly improved relations now existing between the two nations, can discover a satisfactory and lasting settlement between the two Powers that are struggling for the lead in the North of Asia. There is such a gulf between Russia's pretensions and Japan's demands that it looks a superhuman task to bridge it over. Were Russia more tractable the position of affairs would be very different. One of the really hopeful factors in the situation is the apparent adhesion of the Chinese to the Japanese side, which all the most recent news from the North appears to indicate. The *North-China Daily News* points out that the educated Chinese generally took little or no interest in the war between China and Japan, but they seem curiously enough to be even more interested than the Manchus themselves in recovering Manchuria from the grasp of Russia. The importance of this is impossible to exaggerate. A hostile China cuts at the communications between Port Arthur and Vladivostock with European Russia. At its full value it cancels the value of the Trans-Siberian line; at its least, it detaches a vast number of Russian troops from the front in North-East Asia. When writers indulge in prophesies about Russia adopting a Parthian policy and retiring inland only to return in overwhelming force, they ignore the fact that the destruction of the railway absolutely stops advance overland and necessitates Russia securing maritime supremacy to counteract the blow. There has been a great deal of loose talk about the inevitability of an ultimate Russian victory. What this is based on, we cannot conceive. Nevertheless we should be very sorry indeed to see Japan insist on war, except as the last resource, that is, to avoid relegation to the rank of secondary Powers. And we trust it is not necessary again to insist that the downfall of Japan would effectually sweep away with it the remaining traces of British influence in Northern Asia. Britain cannot afford to see Japan crushed by Russia. Apart from all questions of honour and the obligations of treaties, it would be a most disastrous step, politically and commercially, for Britain to acquiesce in the absolute paramountcy of Russia in the north of this great continent of Asia. It is a welcome piece of intelligence that H.M.S. *King Alfred*, the powerful sister ship of the *Leviathan*, is coming out here soon, and may remain with the British squadron on the station. H.M.S. *Centurion* may be in Hongkong in about a week's time, a fact which we overlooked when writing on the 22nd instant on the neglect to increase the British fleet in these waters. Nevertheless, we should still compare unfavourably with Russia, more particularly when her ships now in the Mediterranean arrive.

Christmas is looked on and written of commonly as a period of peace. Unluckily it has far more often of late years been a season of alarms and of threats of war, if not of actual warfare. The year 1903 closes like many of its immediate predecessors amid

anxiety and dread, and every day is felt to be a possible black date in history, the forerunner of months of terrible and relentless hostilities. Yesterday's wire news seems, however, to offer some hopes of the avoidance of such a catastrophe.

THE DYNASTIC QUESTION IN CHINA.

(*Daily Press*, 21st December.)

There can be no question that the TA-TSING Dynasty has become very unpopular in China. Of foreign origin, it was for many generations greatly disliked by the natives, and several attempts to overthrow it have been made; but as the Manchus studiously adapted themselves to Chinese customs, and Manchuria itself became absorbed into the Empire, the feeling against the Dynasty gradually wore off, and the sovereigns were accepted as the Sons of Heaven, divinely selected to reign on the Dragon Throne. Of late years, however, the antagonism to the Dynasty has revived in consequence, first, of the mistakes made by the Government and the reverses suffered by them in their dealings with Foreign Powers, and, secondly, owing to the arbitrary treatment of the Emperor by the Empress Dowager, and the assumption by that old lady of the supreme power. Reformers have sprung up in various parts of China, and some have paid the penalty of their boldness by the sacrifice of their lives. Still there are others ready to take up the cause, and although for the most part these Reformers are weak and unable to muster an ardent following, yet it is being gradually propagated by secret agents and through the Press. Had not the Reform party in China lacked leaders, funds, strength of purpose, and successful initiative, they might no doubt have accomplished much more, though it would not be an easy task to upset the established administration at Peking. The great thing in such a cause, of course, is to find a leader round whom reformers could rally, and to whose banner the discontented of all classes would be attracted. So far the man has not appeared, and it is doubtful whether the hour has arrived. All the risings attempted of late years have been abortive in consequence of the Imperial Government being always in a position—thanks to their possession of gun-boats, arms of precision, and drilled troops—to quell any mere insurrection of the populace, or even an organised revolt. Hitherto these risings have been led by obscure persons possessing neither a stock of arms nor the wherewithal to purchase them.

If the report from a native journal at Shanghai be correct, however, there seems some probability of a leader being produced who may command more general support and possibly prove a really formidable aspirant to the supreme power in China. According to this authority, an effort is to be made by the malcontents in Hunan to restore the MING, or last Chinese dynasty, and a secret society has been formed at Changsha called the *Kwangfu Hu*, or Society for the Restoration of the Light, in other words, of the MINGS. Although only two months old, this society is said to have a membership of nearly two thousand. The chief of the society is a man of the surname of CHU—the surname of the MING Imperial House—and he claims to be a lineal descendant of the Emperors whose dynasty he seeks to restore. It is further alleged that, unlike many other existing secret societies in this Empire, the majority of the members of the new society are well-to-do and educated men. The leaders of the Kwangsi rebels are said to have been investigating the

claims of Mr. CHU to represent the MING dynasty, and if they are satisfied of his *bona fides* they are prepared to cross into Hunan and espouse his cause. It is well known that the people of Hunan—a province noted for its wealth and intelligence—have for some years been disgusted with the weakness and procrastinating policy of the Manchu Government, and that many influential men there would be glad to see a change to a Chinese dynasty. The difficulty of course is to find a really intelligent and highly-educated scion of the ancient Ming dynasty. If Mr. CHU can satisfactorily fulfil all the necessary conditions, show that he is a strong man, a scholar, and a fearless leader, he will be sure to secure a great deal of support, and his following would speedily gather strength with every small success achieved. Meantime, however, the rebels in Kwangsi have not, according to all accounts, been scoring any successes. The province is a poor one, and the rebel forces will not long be able to hold out against the troops sent against them unless they receive strong reinforcements from Hunan. It will be interesting to note how the new aspirant to Imperial honours fares with his countrymen. Unless he cannot only show that Imperial blood flows in his veins, but that he possesses ability to live up to his pretensions, he will soon drop back into the obscurity from which he so recently emerged.

CHINA AND FRANCE.

(*Daily Press*, 23rd December.)

If the latest reports, derived from good native authority, be true, China must have failed indeed on evil times. MILTON, in poetic exaggeration, speaks in the lowest depths of deeper still; what in his case was merely poetic licence has in that of China become a grim reality. According to this latest report, Russia, not content with having, without any show of quarrel, entered on, and in spite of repeated promises to evacuate, still holding an important province of China, has recently influenced France to press on China what France represents as her good offices to act as arbitrator between the two. Unlike the ordinary practice of arbitration, she has made her award beforehand; China is to keep closed to foreign commerce the important marts of Moukden and the mouth of the Tatung, and is to place under Russian control those parts of Manchuria through which the Manchurian railway passes, and Russia is to have the exclusive right of mining in the Manchurian provinces. In the event of China agreeing to these remarkable concessions Russia is to engage to withdraw from what is left of Manchuria by next March. For this piece of officious interference, which it is not suggested has been asked for, France, of course, expects an adequate compensation, and the consideration is almost equally staggering. France is to be permitted to put down the rebellion in Kwangsi, but characteristically not a word is said about retiring when the suppression is complete. The whole affair bears, in fact, a remarkable resemblance to a transaction wherein China was interested at the very verge of history. The state of Cheo in those days had its headquarters in what is now the province of Shensi. The *Hiung Nu* were then, as Russia is now, pressing on the northern frontier, and had advanced so far as to threaten the capital, situated near the modern Hsian. Cheo had fallen on evil times, and was governed by a weak king. The Duke of Ts'in, ancestor of the great SHI HWANG-TI, offered his services to drive away the Turks, which he did successfully. He had said nothing about restoring

the town when the *Hiung Nu* were expelled, so he quietly remained, and the unfortunate king and all his people who remained about him had to emigrate, and take up a new home in Honan at the town of Loyang. Such was the hard measure dealt out to the ancestors of the present Chinese, and it would be well for the modern administrators of this Government to lay the story by for reference.

We have told the tale of the French as it has come to us from Chinese sources, apparently without any inkling of its importance to the very existence of China; and probably in ignorance of the fatal results of a former trial of the same methods. We do not in any way vouch for its truth; nor do we believe that the French have been acting the double part attributed to them. The whole tale, indeed, bears on its face evidence of having been more or less concocted by Chinese brains, and its chief interest lies in the curious light that it throws on the state of confusion and helpless unpreparedness in which China finds herself after the warnings of nearly half a century, and the inability of the Chinese official mind to grasp the main features of the present situation. One part of the story is undoubtedly true: nowhere has the incapacity of the governing body been more markedly shown than in its inability to put down the state of disorder for some years back prevailing in the province of Kwangsi. It would be dignifying the movement now going on in Kwangsi by too high-sounding a title to call it a rebellion. It has, in fact, no object and no leader, both generally held necessary to constitute a rebellion. It is really but an expression of the discontent of the people at the absence of any system of government. The unpaid officials sent to take charge of the various offices, finding themselves without resources of any sort, owing to past neglect, are compelled in self-defence to institute a system of collection akin to that described by SCOTT, "that they should take who have the power, and they should keep who can." The so-called rebellion is merely a return to primitive usages, and Government and people alike suffer. That the French, whatever the shortcomings of their own administration, should protest against such a state of affairs is natural enough, and the French Minister in Peking has protested, and still protests in the strongest terms against the system. This is, however, a completely different thing from representing him as the willing minion of Russian intrigue. Doubtless from the very nature of the case he finds himself the not altogether willing instrument of Russian schemes, and doubtless ready to take advantage of any circumstance likely to advance his national claims. The remedy is, however, in the power of the Chinese Government itself; under the best of circumstances the province of Kwangsi never has been self-supporting, and under present conditions less so than ever. If Peking will recognise this unpleasant fact, and supply the deficit, there is no reason why Kwangsi should not become as peaceful and well ordered as the best of the Eighteen Provinces. The sums annually squandered under pretence of re-establishing peace could pay the expenses of settled government, and leave a good margin for improvements.

The Standard's Tokyo correspondent wires that it is believed Russia's reply virtually rejects the cardinal principle of the Japanese claims, and that if it is so, unless Russia reconsiders the position, hostilities are almost inevitable.

HONGKONG'S WATER SUPPLY.

(Daily Press, 19th December.)

About this time last year the water question was a very prominent one in Hongkong. The city of Victoria had then been on intermittent supply for over seven weeks, the curtailment having commenced on the 1st November. Now, in the absence of further rain (which may fairly be presumed), we shall be on intermittent supply again next Monday, some parts of the city being promised four hours' water and others water for varying periods, down to as little as one hour. As we pointed out yesterday, the three reservoirs contained on the 1st instant 26,139,000 more gallons of water than on the same date last year, but were all far below overflow, Tytam being 10 ft. 10 in., Pokfulum 15 ft. 9 in., and Wongneicheong 38 ft. 7 in. below. We have now the dry season of the year to face, with no prospect of heavy rainfall until next May. The situation has therefore come about that the present water reserve is insufficient to allow with safety a full supply, and the city accordingly is reduced to what is considered half-supply. In November, 1902, the amount of water consumed per head, under intermittent supply, was 10.4 gallons; in November, 1903, with full supply, it was 18 gallons per head. As is a familiar fact, Victoria is to have a rider-main system, but this has not yet begun to be distributed. The materials have not yet been received in Hongkong, and the Water Authority, in reply to an enquiry, informs us that they will not be received for some time to come. The old system of distribution must be followed until the rider-mains are laid, and with our inadequate reserve we are to be reduced to half supply. The Hon. W. CHATHAM states that by past experience it is quite safe to give a half-supply. There is no likelihood, he thinks, of our having to bring water in boats from Kowloon, as was made necessary at the beginning of this year by the dry season of 1902. According to statistics the chances are against our having a great quantity of rain for some considerable time as we said above. These statistics are of no little interest, and we need make no apology therefore for quoting them in full. They are as follows:—

RAINFALL AT HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

	1903	1902	1884—1901
	in.	in.	Mean Max. Min.
January	1.37	0.29	1.38 8.43 0.00
February	0.21	0.02	2.05 7.95 0.24
March	2.65	0.43	2.75 10.43 0.17
April	4.72	1.84	5.82 14.89 1.96
May	13.96	26.73	12.66 48.84 1.15
June	25.23	15.44	16.40 34.37 1.34
July	11.16	16.26	13.28 28.24 4.57
August	14.97	26.51	13.50 27.87 5.20
Sept.	16.53	0.63	8.17 19.11 1.84
October	1.66	1.94	5.10 17.87 0.01
Nov.	1.09	5.40	1.54 7.32 0.01
December	2.96	0.98	4.09 4.00 0.00

YEARLY RAINFALL AT OBSERVATORY.

	inches.
1884	75.42
1885	115.92
1886	69.17
1887	66.29
1888	104.58
1889	119.72
1890	70.93
1891	117.12
1892	90.97
1893	91.95
1894	104.25
1895	45.83
1896	72.79
1897	100.03
1898	57.02
1899	72.69
1900	73.73
1901	55.78
1902	97.50

This year's figures are not yet complete, of course, but for the eleven months gone

the rainfall has been between 93 and 94 inches, and we may put it at 94 for the whole year, making 1903 the ninth wettest year in the series of twenty, and very considerably above the average of about 80 inches. Once more the utter inadequacy of our water-storage capacity on the island is demonstrated. It is known that preparations for increasing this capacity largely (though not by any means too largely, in our opinion), are in progress, but as there is a suspicion abroad that all is not going well with the Tytamuk works, we think it is due from the Government that a reassurance should be given, if possible, that no serious obstacle has been found to delay the prosecution of so necessary a scheme as that of the new reservoir there. We trust that one of the un-official members of the Legislative Council will take this question up.

HONGKONG AND THE KWANGSI FAMINE.

(Daily Press, 24th December.)

Hongkong residents, who between them subscribed nearly \$50,000 to a fund started in the Colouy under the name of the Kwangsi Famine Fund, have been under the impression that their pecuniary assistance, backed up by the actual work of distribution, etc., carried on by certain gentlemen connected with Hongkong and by some zealous missionary volunteers in the Kwang provinces, did a great deal to save lives and mitigate hardships in the famine districts. We must confess to having shared in this belief, convinced by the impartial statements of missionaries, both of British and of American nationalities. We were not a little astonished therefore to see in the pages of a New York religious weekly, the *Christian Herald*, various descriptions of how "our relief" was welcomed in Kwangsi, "our" referring of course to the *Christian Herald*'s. Now the New York paper, it is true, very humanely promoted a fund, to which its readers contributed most generously, to the extent of not less than \$40,000 gold, for the relief of the famine-stricken in Kwangsi. For this splendid exhibition of charity the *Herald* and its readers were deservedly thanked by the Chinese officials in most unstinted terms. Hongkong too can heartily admire the open-handedness of a community so very much more remote from the scene of suffering than we are, which can so freely give from its wealth to relieve distress which has touched ourselves so deeply. Nevertheless, we cannot see that it is just that the efforts of Hongkong, which, though a comparatively small place, gave at least half as much as the charitable New Yorkers, should be ignored or, worse still, appropriated to swell the feelings of satisfaction of the *Christian Herald* readers at the success of their efforts. To show what we mean, we will give examples. Throughout in the reports sent from Canton to the *Herald* Hongkong's share in the relief is passed over, generally without even bare mention, and the Hongkong workers are classed as part of the American. There is in the *Herald* of the 23rd September last, a photograph of a group of "American relief workers at the gate of a temple"; these are six British subjects and two Americans! More striking still, in the *Herald* of the 22nd July appears a letter under the heading of "the relief work described," in which a letter of the Rev. H. K. SHUMAKER is quoted with reference to the work done at Kwai Un. At Kwai Un the rice used was all Hongkong rice, and we do not believe that Mr. SHUMAKER ever intended

to give any other impression. He mentions indeed his journeying in company with Mr. FLETCHER, of the Hongkong Government service. Yet this letter is calmly quoted as a testimony to the American relief work. The whole tenor of the accounts in the *Herald* is that the help given by the New York journal, under the direction of the Hon. ROBERT M. McWADE, U.S. Consul-General at Canton, stopped the Kwangsi famine, the other assistance given being negligible. We appeal to the sense of justice of those Americans who shared in the relief work to say whether this is so, and we have no doubt as to their answer. We cannot blame the *Christian Herald* for the garbled accounts of the charitable operations which appeared in its columns. Those reports were sent to our New York contemporary from Canton, and the hand that sent them is plain. In all the accounts there is one name which appears innumerable times; it is that of the Hon. ROBERT M. McWADE, U.S. Consul-General at Canton. After reading the Hon. ROBERT M. McWADE's version of how the Kwangsi famine was relieved, we gather that the main agent in it was the Hon. ROBERT M. McWADE. We therefore challenge the Hon. ROBERT M. McWADE to justify what he has written. The verdict may rest with the general body, irrespective of nationality, of those who laboured so hard and so unselfishly to aid the starving Kwangsi population in their distress, without any thoughts of advertising their country or themselves. We are convinced, too, that the *Christian Herald* never intended its readers' generosity to be exploited in the way in which it has been. Advertisement of this kind sullies the name of charity, and must be distasteful to every right-minded man, in whatever part of the world he lives. But of course there may be some explanation forthcoming from the Hon. ROBERT M. McWADE. That is a matter which must be left to the honourable gentleman himself.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press, 21st December.)

The near approach of Christmas in Hongkong has been accompanied by two circumstances interesting to the meteorological department as well as to the general public. They are warmer weather and less water. With the thermometer well above 60 and at times even above 70 again it is somewhat surprising to reflect on the recent drop to just above 40 on the Peak in the early mornings. Just now it is unsafe to speculate what the temperature will be from day to-day. The water question is a more unpleasant one, and I expect we shall hear a good deal about it in the coming months. To-day sees Victoria once more on short commons, some unfortunate residents being allowed only from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. each day to supply themselves for the day. Surely the Water Authority might have shown a little more consideration and arranged for their pittance to reach them an hour later! An era of overflowing baths, etc., will now set in every morning early. All who have any experience of the Chinese "b y" know that to meet the restrictions imposed by the Water Authority he contrives, in spite of all orders, to turn on every tap in the house over-night, so as to do away with the necessity of rising from his bed before he wants to. The waste of water thus caused must be very great.

Though the days are warm the nights draw in early, and the demand on the very limited resources of the Gas Company consequently becomes all the more insistent. Some two months ago it was explained in the *Daily Press* that the Company were engaged in laying larger mains in the central district and that in a very short time the pressure of gas in the mains on the higher levels would consequently no longer be insufficient. Well, the long-suffering public has waited, and waited in vain

Is it not time that the Government had something to say to the Gas Company on the subject? One resident in Conduit Road informs me that on Saturday evening, with three incandescent lights in one room, the combined illuminant was not sufficient to enable him to read. I suppose all residents on that level must suffer alike, for I have noticed that the street lamps along that thoroughfare do not give the glimmer of farthing rushlights. If the Government does not espouse the cause of the private householder, it is surely time that it took strong measures to secure the adequate lighting of the public thoroughfares.

A facetious correspondent writes in this connection: In these days of the constantly-recurring query—"What shall we do with our sons?" a suggestion to the perplexed may prove welcome. Why not bring them up as opticians? Surely there is—or will shortly be—ample scope for the exercise of that profession in this Colony, thanks to the Gas Company. It is only too evident that the residents in this particular corner of the Empire will shortly either be disporting themselves behind double-power spectacles, or else Nature—by her method of adapting one's needs to one's surroundings—will step in, and provide the residents on this Isle of Perpetual Gloom with orbs of similar properties to those possessed by the feline tribe.

Here is an impression of Sir Henry Blake as he struck a Colombo paper on his arrival there on the 3rd inst.:—The feeling was irresistible—nay, the conviction came with sledge-hammer force—that the tall, calm, broad-shouldered, stately dignified man who walked along the landing pier, bowing courteously to right and left, was a man of action—a doer and not a talker. There was character imprinted on his face—a calm, emotionless face; a thoughtful, and withal, good-looking face, and a pair of dauntless eyes. "Essentially a strong man," was the whisper in the crowd, "a man who will think for himself, and act as he thinks best: a man who will hold the scales with unswerving hand: a man who will go straight forward—a sound, solid, safe man." Our late Governor is being given a high standard to live up to in Ceylon. Another paper notes a strong facial resemblance in his to Sir J. West Ridgeway, whom he succeeds.

I would suggest to the Managers of the Peak Tramway that a notice might be put up conspicuously in the terminus at S. John's Place stating that tickets can be obtained from the conductor on board the cars only. I make this suggestion in the interests of strangers, who are always in a state of uncertainty as to where to get their tickets, and in some cases, I believe, have missed a car while looking for a booking office. Some consideration is due to the stranger within our gates, who pays cheerfully and helps to swell the very respectable dividend earned by the Company.

The casual pedestrian wending his way along the Peak roads and taking in the charming views which everywhere meet and delight the eye, may perhaps wonder, at this season of the year, whence come the odours that greet his olfactory nerves! The perfume is not of roses, nor yet of oleander, nor of magnolia, but more resembles an escape of gas, a bad drain, or the reek from a dead animal. For your comfort, gentle wayfarer, I may tell you that the scent is from neither of these unpleasant sources. It emanates from a stocky, inoffensive-looking shrub called the *Eurya Japanica*, which is now beginning to flower. It bears a multitude of little cup-like flowers, which apparently yield a quantity of honey, for the bees swarm round the shrubs when they bloom. Perhaps my friend the Government Botanist will give us some remarks on this peculiarly offensive tree.

(*Daily Press*, 28th December.)

This is the season of the year when every man feels on the best of terms with himself as well as with his neighbour, and anyone who has witnessed during the past week the troops of coolies employed in carrying "cumshas" to the residences on the hillside and hilltop have observed very remarkable manifestations of the fact. "Christmas comes but once a

year," as the poet says, and we make the most of it while it lasts. And having survived Christmas, I suppose many are now making their engagements for the New Year holiday. Holidays seem to come thick and fast at this time of the year, and many of us, I dare say, are already beginning to feel as one of Shakespeare's characters did, that:

If all the year were playing holidays,
To sport would be as tedious as to work.

The vendors of flowers in the Colony did a lucrative business last week. Bunches of flowers such as can usually be bought for 10 or 15 cents were selling for 50 or 75 cents. The boughs of fir which were sold at good prices to do duty as Christmas trees apparently cost their vendors nothing but the labour of breaking them off the trees on the island, for in the course of a ramble over the hills on Christmas day I saw many evidences that this was how many of the boughs had been acquired.

Apropos this subject of Christmas decorations, I have been asked the reason for the singular absence of floral decorations in the Cathedral on Xmas day. "There were the same inartistic pillars, the same gloomy-looking walls lacking even a semblance of decoration, and but for a few ferns in the vicinity of the altar, the Cathedral wore its sombre everyday appearance." My correspondent seems to think the absence of any decorative scheme, such as worshippers in the churches at home delight to see, is due to indifference; but I know of clergymen at home who entertain strong objections to these floral decorations, and though I have no knowledge of the reasons for the lack of adornment at Christmastide in our own Cathedral it is more likely to be due to similar objections than to indifference.

I notice one or two improvements on the higher levels which have doubtless not escaped the notice of others, and as I have complained in this column about their need, I am the more pleased to mention them. The iron railing in Conduit Road, between Robinson Road and Belios Terrace, which the depredations of thieves had left dangerously defective, has been repaired for its entire length; the Gas Company has improved the lighting of this road within the past few days by putting down larger mains, and consequently householders too derive equal benefit. Still one more item might be incorporated in this note. Public seats have during the past week been placed in Glenealy Road. Those who walk up the incline will appreciate them. The letters "B. & A.D." painted on the top rail appear to somewhat mystify some people, but when it is explained that the letters represent Botanical and Afforestation Department, it affords an opportunity to the joker to say that the Department is not as "B.A.D." as it is painted.

Many new buildings are being erected on the higher slopes as well as at the base of Victoria City and I might venture a comment on the subject of the precipitous retaining walls which multiply as building sites are acquired on the hillside. So often have similar retaining walls given way in various parts of Hongkong after heavy rains that, one would think, new walls would be built more on an incline, but there is no evidence of this idea being entertained by the local builders. I note however, in some places that pipes project from the walls. Perhaps, by this means of drainage, the strain on the walls during wet weather will be lessened.

Now that the City is growing so fast in all directions, rents, we sometimes hear it said, must go down, even in Queen's Road when Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., and other firms, vacate their old premises to take possession of the new buildings in Des Voeux Road. That, however, is a delusion. Rents in Queen's Road show a strong tendency in the opposite direction, and we are not likely to see property abegging for occupation in that quarter for a few years yet.

I note that in Des Voeux Road, where telephone posts interfered with the tramways' scheme, the telephone wires have been fixed on

to the tramways' poles, thereby allowing the telephone poles, which formed an obstruction, to be removed. This appears to be a very good arrangement, and, considering that the tramways' poles are embedded in cement, they ought to withstand the strain put upon them during typhoons. It is only a little over a year ago, it will be remembered, that the telephone posts in Des Voeux Road were blown down. Occurrences of this description are very dangerous BANYAN.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 23rd inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCE THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

His Excellency Major-General VILLIERS HATTON, C.B.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY (Attorney-General).

Hon. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. BASIL R. H. TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

•Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

PLAQUE STAFF WORK.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table a paper showing the work done by the plague staff from 22nd August till 6th November, 1903.

FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minute No. 66 and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was adopted.

EXTERNAL AIR.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY also submitted a statement showing the definition of "external air" recommended by the Sanitary Board. He said—This will obviate the necessity for the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce putting his motion.

The definition was as follows:—

Section 6, Sub-section 26.—"External air" means the clear and unobstructed open air of:—(1.) any street in front of an existing building which is not less than 8 feet in width throughout. (2.) any street in front of a building hereafter erected which is not less than 13 feet in width throughout. (3.) any open space in the rear of any building which is not less than 13 feet width throughout. (4.) any open space at the side of any existing building which either—(i.) extends continuously along the side of such building and has a continuous width of at least eight feet in every part; or else, (ii.) extends continuously along three-fifths of the side of such building and has a continuous width of at least twelve feet in every part of such three-fifths. For the purpose of measuring the width of such street or space, a straight line shall be drawn from and at right angles to the external surface of the front back or side wall as the case may be; or, in the event of any structure projecting from such wall from and at right angles to the outermost portion of such projecting structure exclusive of any cornice or eaves gutters.

The motion of Hon. Mr. Pollock was as follows:—"That the Government do obtain from the Secretary of the Sanitary Board, and do lay upon the table, for the information of the Legislative Council, the recommendation which was made by the majority of the Sanitary Board

as to the definition of 'external air,' and the names of the members forming such majority."

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I had intended, sir, to address the Council upon this motion.

His EXCELLENCY—We will give you the privilege to do so.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—With your Excellency's permission I will make a few remarks explaining the reason why I made this motion. The reason was that the hon. and learned Attorney-General stated in the objects and reasons attached to the Public Health Amendment Bill and also, if correctly reported in the newspapers, on the second reading on 7th December that this definition of external air contained in the Public Health Amendment Bill was in substance the definition recommended by the Sanitary Board. I am quite sure that the hon. and learned member made the statement in good faith, but he made it under an erroneous impression, and what I say is that the hon. Director of Public Works, who is a member of the Sanitary Board, and who was present at many deliberations of the Sanitary Board at which after great difficulty and after spending some hours upon the subject, the definition of external air was arrived at and agreed to by a majority of the Sanitary Board—what I complain of, sir, is that the Director of Public Works did not get up in his place and remove the misapprehension that must have been caused in the minds of the members of this Council by the statement made by the Attorney-General. As I said just now, sir, this question of external air formed the subject of very anxious deliberation at many meetings of the Sanitary Board. It was a very difficult point indeed for the members to define. Ultimately, after the subject had been considered at two or three different meetings the sub-committee of the Sanitary Board arrived at a definition of external air and it was then submitted in due course to the full body of the Sanitary Board. Then, sir, at that meeting of the full body of the Sanitary Board a definition of external air was passed which is absolutely and entirely different from the definition of external air as it appears in the Public Health Amendment Bill. Therefore it seems to me that this definition has been passed through this Council and come into law under an erroneous impression as to what the Sanitary Board recommended and therefore, sir, when the question of further amendments to the Public Health Ordinance comes up as it is sure to do shortly I hope, sir, that you will allow this question of the definition of external air to be treated as an open question in consequence of the erroneous impression which has been conveyed to the Council with regard to the recommendation of the Sanitary Board. I do not of course complain, sir, of the fact that the hon. Director of Public Works thought that another definition of external air from that which was approved by a majority of the Sanitary Board was advisable. He has got a perfect right to his own opinion in that respect, but what I do complain of, sir, is that he being the only member present at the Council who could state from his own personal knowledge exactly what decision was arrived at and what definition was agreed upon by a majority of the Sanitary Board did not get up in the Council in his place and explain what the decision of the majority was.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, as the Colonial Secretary has laid upon the table of the house a paper containing information in respect to the details of the suggestions by which the Sanitary Board conceived that the recommendation which they had made to the Government to amend the then existing definition of external air, all that could be obtained by the resolution has been obtained and it would not have been necessary for me to have said anything except for the misapprehension that exists in the mind of the hon. and learned member for the Chamber of Commerce. What I understand the hon. and learned member to say—and the house will remember that the hon. and learned member was not present on the occasion to which he has referred—as to what occurred on that occasion was this, that owing to an unwitting misrepresentation by myself of the fact of a certain definition being made by the Sanitary Board, the house had been induced to accept a definition which I

proposed of the meaning of the expression external air and it passed it accordingly, believing it to be if not *ipsissima verba*, at all events in effect the definition which received the approval of the majority of the Sanitary Board. All I can say is this that had the hon. and learned member been present in his place at the time I proposed the definition about external air and heard the definition there would not have been this expression of opinion to-day, for from nothing which appears in the printed statement of the objects and reasons appended to the Bill nor from anything which appears in *Hansard* that I said on the occasion is the hon. and learned member warranted in saying that I told the members of this house that the definition I proposed was in substance the definition submitted to the Government for consideration by the Sanitary Board. That is what he has just said, that I unconsciously and unwittingly led the house into believing that I was recommending for their adoption a definition which was in substance that which was recommended by the Sanitary Board. If you turn to the printed objects and reasons appended to the Bill you will find what is printed there is as follows. Before I go any further however I may say that the printed objects and reasons which are put on a Bill here form no part of the Bill itself but are merely in compliance with the custom which I believe has always obtained in Hongkong. I am not aware of it being the custom in any other legislative body either representative or nominative as this is. The usual practice in most legislative assemblies is that when members get a Bill they get the Bill and the Bill only. The draft is discussed before being passed into law, and on the second reading, whoever the member may be who is in charge of the Bill makes an explanation of its objects and reasons. But in Hongkong the custom obtains—and I think it is a most convenient one—of appending the objects and reasons for the convenience of members before they came to the Council and to accelerate and expedite the business. These are stated shortly and succinctly, not in detail such as you give in moving the second reading of the Bill, but the objects for which the legislation is introduced. I come to the objects and reasons themselves. If you take them you will find in the third paragraph these words:—"In order to give effect to the Board's recommendation a new definition of the expression external air is submitted to Council." What I say there is "In order to give effect to the recommendation a certain definition is submitted to the Council." The learned and hon. member will see that it is not stated in what shape that recommendation should be given effect to. The Sanitary Board were not the only body that brought under the notice of the Government the necessity for considering a new regular definition of the expression external air. They made a recommendation. Others made recommendations. The recommendation of each was duly and properly considered. The recommendation was to make a new amendment. It was not that the Government was bound hand and foot and this house tied down to pass whatever not the Sanitary Board but a majority of the Sanitary Board in their care and wisdom thought best. The duty of the Government on receiving their recommendation was to give effect to it not necessarily in the language of the Sanitary Board's recommendation but in such language as would commend itself to the approval of this house. So I said in my appended objects and reasons that in order to give effect to the Board's recommendation a new definition of the expression external air is submitted to the Council. Turning to *Hansard* what do you find that I said? "The greatest difficulty the Government have had in preparing this Bill for presentation to the Councils is to get a definition of external air which would be capable of being given effect to." That was our difficulty. We consulted the Sanitary Board. We consulted the Principal Civil Medical Officer. We consulted other persons. We consulted our adviser the Building Authority. We consulted gentlemen unconnected altogether, and we consulted among ourselves; and our greatest difficulty was to find

of all the various recommendations made to us that which would be the most capable of giving effect to the expression external air. That was what I said in *Hansard*, nothing about asking the house to pass a recommendation which was in substance that which was recommended by the Board. Then I proceeded:—"The amendment of the present existing definition is made on the recommendation of the Sanitary Board." So it was. It was made on their recommendation but not in their words. "They report that at present the definition renders it almost impossible to give effect to the real intention of the Ordinance with respect to the proper amount of light and air that should be admitted into rooms." That is what they told us. "A new definition therefore will be submitted for the consideration of the Council which I believe will be found to at last achieve the difficulty of exactly saying what was meant by external air." Where is there a word about asking this house to adopt a definition which had the sanction of the Sanitary Board and was in substance that which they had recommended? What I said was that the Sanitary Board had recommended that the existing definition should be amended. We have considered that recommendation. One of the most difficult things we had to do in this Bill was to get such a definition of external air as will be capable of being understood, and I submit for your consideration a definition which I believe will achieve that purpose. That is all I said. If the hon. and learned member had been present in his place in the house he would have understood better than he apparently has what I asked the house to do. At the same time I am pleased to say I regret that in framing the objects and reasons I did not make it abundantly clear by iteration and reiteration—which I did not think were necessary—what was meant. I did not think it was necessary to say anything more than I did say, that in order to give effect to the recommendation of the Sanitary Board that the definition should be amended we after grave and careful consideration at last submitted a proposal for a definition which we believed would achieve the object. What the Sanitary Board did recommend was not practicable. Hon. members will see that it was absolutely impossible for us to have given effect to their definition in the shape as to details in which it was to be given effect to. We have given effect to it in a shape which I believe will be acceptable.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—With all due deference to the Attorney-General, the inference which I drew from his language was the inference which 9 out of 10 would draw. With regard to the point he mentioned more than once about not having given effect to the *ipsissima verba* of the clause about definition inserted in the Bill, I would say simply and shortly this, as hon. members will see themselves by comparing the Bill as passed into law and the recommendation of the Sanitary Board, that they are absolutely and entirely different in substance one from the other. It is not a question whether the exact language or words or expressions or phrases of the Sanitary Board are used, but there is a complete diversion in substance.

His EXCELLENCY—I regret very much that there should have been any misunderstanding in this matter and I think it may perhaps assist to a better understanding of the question if I state briefly the policy that the Government has followed and intends to follow in the future in regard to the matter of amending the Public Health and Building Bill. When that very voluminous measure was passed the Government undertook that for some years to come it would not introduce any fresh sanitary legislation if it could possibly be avoided doing so. Therefore in the amending Bill which passed the Council at the last meeting, only such amendments as were absolutely necessary were made in the principal Ordinance. The amendment of the definition of external air took the form of merely verbal alterations to the original definition which is found in the principal Ordinance. That definition has not been found to be unworkable, and it is not anticipated that it will be found to be unworkable, because the principal Ordinance gives to the Governor in Council absolute discretion to

grant exemptions for buildings which do not comply as regards external air with the definition in the Ordinance. Therefore the Governor in Council can really allow anything at all to be regarded as external air. The amendments to the definition must not be taken to indicate that the Government is taking up a different position or going to adopt a different policy from that which it took up when it passed the principal Ordinance. Every application for exemption from the provisions of the Ordinance regarding external air will receive just, impartial consideration by the Governor in Council, and I can assure hon. members that the fact of the definition having been amended was merely to make clear the meaning that the Government had in its mind when the principal Ordinance was passed. It does not indicate any change of policy, and members of this Council may rest assured that no hardships will be imposed under the amending Ordinance that would not have been imposed under the principal Ordinance. The position practically remains precisely the same as it was under the principle Ordinance. I take it that the hon. member withdraws his motion.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—No, sir. I think I must leave my motion formally on record. I would just like to mention one point.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I am afraid you are not in order now. You have spoken twice.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I thought, sir, that it would obviate my writing to the papers to explain. There was no omission on my part.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—You have got the information you asked for.

QUESTIONS.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK put the following questions:—

1. Does the Government propose to take an and, if so, what steps to prevent the public latrine near the No. 3 Police Station from continuing to be a nuisance to persons passing along the Queen's Road East?

2. What is the object of raising the roadway of the Praya East? Who is paying the cost of such work?

3. Have any, and, if so, what steps been taken by your Department in connection with the introduction of the rider main system into the City of Victoria? By what date do you anticipate that the rider main system will be in proper working order throughout the City of Victoria? What grounds have you for that anticipation?

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:—(1) The Government has already taken steps to remove the cause of the complaints made. The door at Queen's Road end has been permanently closed and the side windows have also been permanently closed. A ventilating shaft with an electric exhaust fan has been installed.

(2) Before the Praya East Reclamation can be taken in hand the existing Praya roadway must be raised so as to enable the drains and sewers to be brought up to such a level that they can be extended out to the new Praya front. If the electric tramway lines were laid along the existing Praya the public would be put to great inconvenience later on, as the tramway traffic would be seriously interfered with by the raising of the road, and the relaying of the lines. The cost of the work, which is being done under contract, is debited to an advance account and will be recovered in due course from the new Praya Reclamation Fund when that Fund is established. A vote was taken for the work on the 10th August last.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied:—(3) "The necessary materials for the work and staff to supervise it have been requisitioned from England. I anticipate that the work will be completed in about two and a half years from now. This is merely an estimate, there are no grounds to go upon."

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK moved the adjournment of the debate in order to get a further answer to Question No. 1. He said—The hon. Colonial Secretary has stated that certain steps have been taken in putting a doorway in Queen's Road end of the latrine and also with reference to some ventilating fan. I should like to know at what date these matters were begun.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Give notice of that, and you will be answered at next meeting.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I am entitled to move for an adjournment of the debate and to ask that the answer be particularised.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I am unable to give any possible date as to when this fan was installed, but I think within the last 10 days is about the period of its being brought into action.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S FEES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for Payment of Counsel's Fees by the losing party in certain cases in which the Attorney-General appears as Counsel. He said—It is not necessary for me to say anything that is not apparent in the Bill itself, except to say that the Bill is intended to remove any doubt that may obtain as to the payment of the fees of the Attorney-General in certain cases where he appears as counsel; the fees to be taxed against the losing side. It is proposed to remove any doubt by asking the house to pass this Bill.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was afterwards considered in Committee and was read a third time and passed on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

UNDESIRABLE PERSONS.

The Council went into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the Recovery of Charges incurred by the Colony on account of certain undesirable persons introduced into the Colony.

An amendment was made, excluding lepers from the scope of the Bill, and a proviso added limiting the aggregate liability of persons bringing undesirable persons into the Colony, for their maintenance to \$5,000.

The Bill was left in Committee to permit of the consideration of several amendments proposed by the Hon. Mr. Pollock.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

HIS EXCELLENCY—As this is the last meeting of Council we shall have this year I beg to wish your Excellency [General Hatton] and the other members of this Council a very happy Christmas and a most prosperous New Year. (Applause). The Council stands adjourned sine die.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council—the Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. M. Thomson) presiding.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$26,500 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extra ordinary, under the following items:—

1. Resumption of Kowloon Inland Lots 1012 to 1015	\$24,000
2. Resumption of strip of Kowloon Inland Lot 1087	2,500
Total	\$26,500

The vote was passed.
This was all the business.

TROUBLE ON THE CANTON RAILWAY.

STORES LOOTED.

Definite news has now come to hand respecting the disturbance that took place on the Canton-Hankow railway in the early part of the week before last. Work was progressing at a village called Chaiping. A number of bad characters, said to be pirates, got in among the gangs of workmen and incited them to join in looting the stores. All the men with the exception of the carpenters knocked off work. This was used as a pretext for making an attack on the carpenters. The coolies all got excited and when the disturbance started the pirates began to loot the buildings used as storehouses by the railway people. Two houseboats used by foreigners were also looted. No violence was offered to the foreigners themselves; indeed two of the white foremen were protected from the violence of the rioters by their own gangs of workmen and were brought safely into headquarters by them. It appears that the whole crowd of Chinese to the number of some 8,000, then joined in the looting. One matched was burned down and a

large amount of tools and material, valued at \$2,000, used in the construction of the line, were carried off. The whole thing ended as quickly as it had begun. Several of the ringleaders were arrested. Work has been partially suspended since the outbreak owing to the lack of tools, etc.

A CHINESE RUMOUR.

We mentioned yesterday that M. Dubail, French Minister at Peking, was reported to be endeavouring to interpose in the Manchurian question and to persuade China to make some concession to Russia. The story now comes from Shanghai that what M. Dubail is urging is that China is to consent to the continuance of Russian control over all parts of Manchuria through which the railway passes and to keep the ports asked for by the other Powers closed. Russia will then withdraw from the rest of Manchuria in March next. In return for her advice France is to be permitted to put down the Kwangsi rebellion! And nothing is said about when France is to retire. This, we must mention, is a Chinese story, and we cannot believe M. Dubail ever proposed any such a reward for France. After all there is another country beside France and China concerned in the ownership of Kwangsi. As for the "rebellion," its continued existence as a rebellion is problematical. We hear nothing of it now. The Kweilin correspondent of the N.C. Daily News, writing on the 7th ult., says:—"As far as Kweilin is concerned one would not know that any rebellion was on, were it not that troops now and then arrive from the north and proceed to the south." However, he adds that the rebels posted a placard in Kweilin some time back offering Tls. 10,000 for H.E. Viceroy Shum's head, and says that the fact that the Government are sending such large bodies of troops looks as if they have a real fear of what it may grow to.

A Japanese paper publishes a Peking telegram to the following effect:—The French Minister to Peking has sent a note to the Government offering to act as arbitrator between Russia and China. He points out that the grant of some of the proposals made by M. Lessar in regard to the evacuation of Manchuria is advisable if China really wishes to see the Russians withdrawn from the three provinces. The Chinese Government are, however, firmly determined to reject the Russian proposal, and they consider that the French Minister's proposal is made in the interest of Russia. *Daily Press*, 23rd December.

THE JAPANESE DIET.

The following is the text of the answer of the Japanese House of Representatives to the Emperor's Message on the 10th inst.:—

"Your Majesty has just solemnly performed the opening ceremony of the nineteenth session of the Diet, for which the House cannot help but feel grateful. The present condition and prospects of the nation are of so bright a character as has rarely been the case in the history of the country, but the provisions made by the Ministers of State are insufficient to uphold the prosperity of the country. In home administration the Ministers are content with tampering measures, and in foreign affairs the Ministers responsible have missed such opportunities that the House cannot but be apprehensive of the future. May your gracious Majesty judge the action the Ministers of State are taking. The House desires to consider all matters brought before it with judgment and circumspection, and will respond to the Imperial desire on the one hand and to the trust reposed in it on the other by the nation."

It is noted in Berlin that, according to statistics for the last 20 years issued by the Imperial Chinese Customs, the German share in the total traffic of foreign countries with China has risen from 5.08 per cent. in 1882 to 13 per cent. in 1902. This increase is to be attributed chiefly to the establishment of a service of steamers of high tonnage to the Far East and to the institution of the great cargo lines from Bremen and Hamburg to East Asia.

PRESS VISIT TO MACAO.

On Boxing Day and the following day, the 26th and 27th inst., it was proposed to hold in Macao a grand charity bazaar and *al fresco* fete in aid of the funds of the convents of the town. The locality chosen was the well known San Francisco gardens on the Praia Grande; and to make the affair a success the officials and leading residents of Macao, of various nationalities, were contributing both energy and gifts. Naturally it was hoped that Hongkong, which has so many ties, historic and social, with Macao, would take an interest in the fete and that many of its residents would take advantage of the holiday season to visit the neighbouring Colony. But of course in Hongkong as elsewhere the charitable like to be assured that their money and sympathy are being deservedly given. With a view to proving that this would be the case in the present instance it occurred to the committee of the Charity Bazaar to invite representatives of the Hongkong Press to visit Macao last weekend, and after lunching with them at the house of Mr. A. J. Basto, father of their Hon. Secretary, to inspect under the guidance of the Rt. Rev. Bishop of Macao the various institutions for which aid is being asked. The guests from Hongkong arrived on the s.s. *Heungshan* on the 19th inst. At 1 p.m. next day they were received by the committee in Mr. Basto's house in the Calcada da Paz, and entertained to lunch. The company that sat down to table was:—The Rt. Rev. D. Paulino; d'Azevedo e Castro, Bishop of Macao; Dr. Luiz Forte, Acting Colonial Secretary; Dr. Albano de Magelhaes, Chief Justice; Mr. W. Noyes Morehouse, Commissioner of Customs, Lappa; Mr. A. J. Basto, Consular Agent for France; Rev. Nunes, secretary to the Bishop; Mr. A. J. Basto, jun.; Mr. C. A. R. Cabral; Mr. Arthur Basto, Mr. Alfred Basto, Mr. P. W. Sergeant, Mr. Mannington, Mr. T. Clarke, and Mr. L. Xavier.

After a luncheon of the most hospitable and at the same time the choicest character, in which several Portuguese dishes worthily figured, Mr. Basto, sen., rose and proposed in French the health of the guests. The Rt. Rev. Bishop replied in Portuguese and drank in turn the toast of the Press of Hongkong, alluding in very complimentary language to the British Press in general and to the support to charitable objects ever accorded by the Hongkong papers. Mr. P. W. Sergeant returned thanks briefly on behalf of the latter, and drank prosperity to the forthcoming charity bazaar. Dr. de Magelhaes and Mr. A. J. Basto, jun., also spoke, the latter again speaking in flattering terms of the visitors. A few more short toasts followed before the company rose.

A brief inspection came next of some of the work which is to be sold at the Bazaar (the greater part of it the results of the orphans' and others' own toil) and of gifts sent by residents in Macao. This concluded, a group of the Committee, visitors, and members of Mr. Basto's household was photographed, and a visit of inspection of the three charitable institutions then commenced. The first reached was the Collegio de Perseveranca in the Rua de Lourenço, which was started by the present Bishop of Macao on the 22nd November last. Under the charge of the Franciscan Sisters, it is designed for the reception of girls over 18 years of age who have left the Casa de Beneficencia, the place mentioned later. At the College the girls are taught various kinds of work of a practical nature, including cooking, and may stay till they are married or otherwise provided for. There are less than 50 inmates at present, but there is room for a large increase in the large and eminently sanitary looking buildings, with recreation ground attached. After leaving this, the party proceeded to the School of Santa Rosa de Lima, formerly the Santa Clara Convent, which was founded 200 years ago, but which has only been opened in its present form about two weeks back. This building, overlooking the Public Gardens, was not on the list of the institutions appealing for aid, but nevertheless the digression for a moment into another quarter proved very interesting. Here the daughters of Macao residents are taught by Sisters, several of them from the religious bodies recently expelled from

France, all the accomplishments which their parents can desire. Languages are a strong point, English, French, and Italian all being imparted by Sisters of the respective nationality. The building itself is a fine example of old convent construction and with its great central courtyard, high timbered roofs, large class rooms, dormitories, etc., furnished a very favourable picture of schoolgirls' life in Macao. There are 20 boarders and over 40 other pupils in the establishment. The Mother Superior courteously attended the visitors and was indefatigable in pointing out the chief features.

The next move was to the Casa de Beneficencia, near the famous Camoeus Gardens and the English Chapel. The Casa was established in 1877 by the Canossian Sisters, wherein to board and educate destitute Portuguese and Chinese girls separately. The Portuguese authorities themselves have sent many girls to the Casa. Of the very numerous boarders admitted a number have been married or have otherwise settled in secular life and others have joined religious orders or taken up mission work. Annexed to the establishment is the Santa Infancia in Hongkong; this was started on the 1st May 1885, since when no less than 10,300 children have been received into it. Altogether the Casa is, as the Rt. Rev. Bishop described it in introducing the visitors, *un vrai musée*. It contains an asylum for old women (some over 90), an orphanage for children abandoned and received in babyhood at the Santa Infancia, a retreat for unfortunate women and others who desire to escape from the outer world—316 adults were received in this retreat alone—and a shelter for weak minded children. The abandoned children formed a most pathetic part of the institution. Three very recently born infants had been received on Sunday morning alone, and there was another in a dying condition which had only arrived a little before. Over 800 children this year had thus been received by these Canossian Sisters only to see all efforts to save their lives fruitless. The Sisters live a life of unremitting toils and anxiety, the marks of which are on their faces only concealed by their tireless cheerfulness and their Italian vivacity. But for these and their devotion to the cause of their wards their existence would indeed be hard. As has been said, the girls in the Casa de Beneficencia, when they attain the age of 18, are now sent to the Collegio du Perseveranca. This, however, is due a new development and is due to the interest and energy exhibited by Macao's new bishop.

It was almost 6.30 p.m. when the round of visits ceased and His Lordship bade farewell to the guests whom he had so courteously and withal genially conducted for a whole afternoon over parts of Macao where the ordinary visitor cannot penetrate, and even the regular resident does not go. It was very evident that his heart was in his work, and indeed all the committee bore eloquent testimony to his noble efforts in the cause of charity and of religious and practical education. Shortly afterwards good-bye was also said to Mr. A. J. Basto, the kindly host of the earlier part of the day, and to his sons and the rest of the committee; and a new and welcome experience came to an end.

The following details with reference to the Casa de Beneficencia may be of interest:—

On the 31st of September, the third quarter of the present year, there were in the Casa (or convent) and its adjuncts, not including the sisters—364 persons, of whom 70 were children.

The quarterly expenses were \$4,493.91, while the money received was \$3,255.75, making a deficit of \$1,238.16. The average expenses during the last quarter were at the rate of \$10.93 per head, or \$3.64 per month. The income, including the extraordinary sum of the proceeds from the amateur performance, and the donation from the Governor on the King's birthday, gives but an average of \$7.92, for the quarter, or \$2.64 per head, per month. It is therefore to make good this deficit of \$1.09 per head per month during the quarter in question that the Bazaar Committee is making every effort, and it is earnestly hoped that the object will be attained by the functions to be held on the 26th and 27th inst.

THE WRECK OF THE "FINSBURY."

The loss of the s.s. *Finsbury* is still fresh in the minds of many people in the Far East. All that was known about the matter was that the vessel was lost, while on a voyage from Hongkong to Japan, during that terrific typhoon which raged in the China Sea about the 20th September. We now learn that one man survived after undergoing fearful privations and hardships. That man arrived to Hongkong from Shanghai on Tuesday morning.

The s.s. *Finsbury* arrived here from Hamburg in September. On the voyage out, it appears, some of the crew did not "hit it off" with the skipper; some of the men asked to be paid off at Hongkong. The captain paid off five Europeans and one Chinese. The Europeans having been only on the vessel for five weeks or so, and having drawn an advance in Hamburg when they shipped, had not enough money coming to them to pay a month's board at the Sailors' Home. Chinese were shipped in their place. The steamer left Hongkong on the 11th September. On the morning of the 21st the vessel was badly caught in the typhoon. The wind blew with terrific force, and tremendous mountains of water washed over the vessel. No vessel could stand such usage. First of all the boats were smashed up and washed out of the davits; the deck fittings were swept overboard. The engines could avail nothing; the vessel lay helpless, completely at the mercy of the elements. After some time, an enormous volume of water, much heavier than the seas which had preceded it, came down with full force over the forward cargo hatches; they gave way and water found its way into the ship's hold. The vessel was doomed, and the crew had no means at hand wherewith to save themselves from a watery grave. The steamer gradually filled, and suddenly, with a gulp, sank beneath the dark waters. Those aboard were sucked down with the vessel, except, of course, the Chinaman who was the sole survivor. He managed to cling to the fore-and-aft bridge which, when the vessel disappeared from view, was left floating on the surface. After nine days—too bitter, almost, to contemplate—clinging to this wreckage, he was picked up by the crew of a Japanese schooner which had also been lost in the typhoon. This crew, however, more fortunate than the poor men on the *Finsbury*, had been able to take to the boats. After three days in the boat, the men landed on one of the small islands of the Japanese group. After some time on the island, the sole survivor of the *Finsbury* was conveyed in a steamer to one of the Japanese ports, from whence the Chinese Consul had him sent to Shanghai. After three weeks in hospital at Shanghai he returned to Hongkong, arriving on the 22nd inst.

MASONIC AFFAIRS.

PERSEVERANCE LODGE.

Perseverance Lodge, 1,165 E. C., held their installation on the 16th inst. Officers for the year 1904 are:—Worshipful Master, Bro. E. H. Hinds; Immediate Past Master, Wor. Bro. A. H. Bottenheim; Senior Warden, Bro. C. A. D. Melbourne; Junior Warden, Bro. E. H. Sharp; Treasurer, Bro. P. H. Holyoak; Secretary, Bro. H. Arthur; Senior Deacon, Bro. W. A. Sims; Junior Deacon, Bro. E. A. Bonner; Dir. of Ceremonies, Bro. C. P. Chater; Organist, Bro. H. Hursthouse; Steward, Bro. F. R. Smith; Steward, Bro. P. K. Knyvett; Inner Guard, Bro. A. R. Lowe; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone.

At a banquet after the installation, the following toasts were given:—The King and the Craft, H.R.H., the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of England, the District Grand Master and Officers of the District Grand Lodge of Hongkong and South China, Sister Lodges and Visitors, the Worshipful Master, Wives, Sisters, Daughters and Sweethearts of Masons, all Poor and Distressed Masons.

LODGE EASTERN SCOTIA.

The Right Worshipful Deputy District Grand Master of Hongkong and South China,

the Rt. Wor. Bro. E. C. Ray, on the 19th inst. installed Wor. Bro. C. F. Focken as R.W.M. of Lodge Eastern Scotia, 923 S.C. (Kowloon), in succession to Wor. Bro. W. C. Jack, at the Masonic Hall, Zetland Street, Hongkong. The newly installed R.W.M. invested his officers as follows:—Depute Master, Wor. Bro. H. B. Bridger; Substitute Master, Wor. Bro. P. D. Hyett; Wor. Sen. Warden, Bro. J. W. Graham; Wor. Jun. Warden, Bro. D. Harvie; Secretary, Wor. Bro. H. Horley; Treasurer, Wor. Bro. W. E. Claret; Organist, Bro. W. O'robar; Senior Deacon, Bro. J. J. Sibbit; Junior Deacon, Bro. J. McGlashan; Ch-plain, Bro. J. W. Osborne; Inner Guard, Bro. R. Wilson; Director of Ceremonies, Bro. C. Fittock; Stewards, Bro. C. T. Letton, Bro. W. T. Stobbing; Tyler, Bro. Walpole.

After the installation ceremony, the brethren proceeded to the banqueting hall downstairs. After dinner the following toasts were given:—The King and the Craft, proposed by the R.W.M. (National Anthem); the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, proposed by the R.W.M.; the District Grand Master and Officers of the District Grand Lodge of Hongkong and South China, proposed by the R.W.M.; Sister Lodges and Visitors, proposed by the W.S.W., Bro. J. W. Graham; the Worshipful Master, proposed by Wor. Bro. W. C. Jack, I.P.M.; Wives, Sisters, Daughters and Sweethearts of Masons, proposed by the youngest Mason present; Al Poor and Distressed Masons, proposed by Bro. the Tyler.

VICTORIA LODGE.

The Right Worshipful Deputy District Grand Master of Hongkong and South China, the Rt. Wor. Bro. E. C. Ray, on the 22nd inst. installed Wor. Bro. C. W. ouquet as R. W. M. of Victoria Lodge, 1,026 E.C. Hongkong, in succession to Wor. Bro. E. H. Ray. Wor. Bro. Longuet installed his officers as follows:—Senior Warden, Bro. C. H. Grace; Junior Warden, Bro. W. C. Barrett; Treasurer, Bro. W. S. Allen; Secretary, Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin; Senior Deacon, Bro. P. W. Goldring; Junior Deacon, Bro. W. J. G. Whiley; Dr. of Ceremonies, Bro. J. M. Crago; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone; Steward, Bro. J. Hageberg. At the banquet the following toast and songs were given:—The King and the Craft, by the Worshipful Master (song, Wor. Bro. Geo. P. Lammert); H.R.H. the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of England, by the Worshipful Master (song, Bro. C. H. Grace); The District Grand Master and Officers of the District Grand Lodge of Hongkong and South China, by The Worshipful Master (song, Bro. Geo. Grindle); Sister Lodges and Visitors, by Bro. Senior Warden (recitation, Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin); The Worshipful Master, by Wor. Bro. E. H. Ray (song, Bro. P. W. Goldring).

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

REGATTA DINNER.

The V.R.C. Regatta Dinner, held at the Kowloon Hotel on the night of the 23rd inst., was a great success, a large number of V.R.C. members, besides quite a few visitors, being present; the dining hall, in fact, was just as full as it could be without interfering with general comfort. Among those present were Lieut. Newman, of the *Amphitrite*, and Mr. Cummings, chief officer of the *Brilliant*; Captain Cowlishaw, unfortunately, could not attend. Mr. H. C. Austen, secretary of the V.R.C., in the absence of Mr. A. Chapman, the president, presided. When dinner was well advanced, and all were clothed in headgear from Tom Smith's crackers, Mr. Austen, amid much applause, proposed "The King." Rising to the toast, the company sang the National Anthem. Lieut. Newman, in proposing "Prosperity of the Club," coupled with "Health to the Secretary," spoke of the commendable spirit in which affairs of the club were managed; the V.R.C. had done its level best to promote sport. Mr. H. C. Austen was referred to in the highest terms, and Mr. Frank White was a man worthy of remembrance (loud applause). Mr. Austen, in responding on behalf of the committee and members

of the V.R.C., thanked Lieut. Newman for the way he had toasted the V.R.C. There were no less than 400 members, the club being in a most prosperous condition. Mr. Frank Lammert had been elected as the new rowing captain, and he hoped during the winter to get up scratch rowing races. The athletic sports were to be held in March. He thought the post of hon. secretary of the V.R.C. well worth having, and he would do the work willingly. Mr. Frank White had been secretary for nearly three years; when he left Hongkong the best wishes of the club would go with him. In drinking Mr. Frank White's health, the toast was honoured with a "He's a jolly good fellow." Mr. Frank White said he would always experience pleasure in looking back on his V.R.C. days. He would, indeed, be very pleased to put up a prize for either the aquatic sports, athletic sports, or regatta (applause). He had been connected with the V.R.C., and knew Mr. Austen to be a good athlete (applause). Then Mr. J. J. Leiria, Vice-Consul at Hongkong for Portugal, proposed the visitors, making a very suitable speech; Mr. Moller responded. The Press was then honoured. Mr. Frank Lammert toasted the ladies. There were no ladies present; needless to say, however, the toast was well received. Mr. F. D. Bain responded. Answering to the call for a speech, Mr. Cummings, chief officer of the *Brilliant*, in the absence of the captain, spoke for his ship. He referred to the company and visitors from Shanghai as "bloods of the first water." The *Brilliant* was the largest sailing-ship under the British flag. Mr. Rogers, an apprentice from the *Brilliant*, also answered a call. After further similar proceedings, the company dispersed.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

The herbarium attached to the Gardens has recently been enriched by the presentation from Staff-Surgeon C. G. Mathew (H.M.S. *Eclipse*) of collections of dried plants from Ningpo, Weihaiwei, Corea, and Japan. The specimens are carefully chosen and very well preserved, and the collector is to be congratulated on making so valuable an addition to the Colonial herbarium.

In the *Index Flora Sinensis* there are sixteen species of calanthe recorded, and four species are found in Hongkong. One of these, *Calanthe gracilis*, is now flowering in the No. 3 house, where it is represented by two specimens, one of which bears one scape and the other four. It is a showy orchid, but it is interesting as it has been recorded from the Khasia Hills in addition to Hongkong. In the latter place it may be found growing on moist rocks on Mount Parker.

Roses and camellias in the Gardens have now a quantity of bloom on them, and should prove attractive for some time to come.

A very fine *Bauhinia* is in flower in the new garden near the deer-pen. It is a much finer species than *Bauhinia purpurea*, which was in flower a short time ago, and the flowers differ structurally from that plant. The colour is of a deep rose-purple excepting the lower petal, and has a large claret-coloured blotch on it. The individual flowers are 5 inches across and are abundantly produced in large terminal corymbae.

Now that the deficiency of seats in the new garden has been remedied visitors will be able to enjoy with more comfort some of the lovely views of the harbour and Glenealy which are to be seen from there, particularly where the undergrowth in front of the seats has been cleared for the purpose.

The Secretary of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company informs us that at the 63rd annual meeting of the company, which was to be held on the 11th December, the directors, after providing for the usual dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, would recommend a dividend on the deferred stock of 6½ per cent. for the six months, and a bonus of 3 per cent., making, with the interim dividend of 3½ per cent. paid in June, a total distribution on the deferred stock of 13 per cent. of the year.

WORK OF THE PLAGUE STAFF.

A paper was laid before the Legislative Council yesterday dealing with the work of the plague staff from 22nd August to 6th November, 1903. It was to the following effect:—

HEALTH DISTRICTS I & II.—Staff.—1 inspector, 2 foremen, 2 rat-collecting coolies, 4 case-removing coolies. One foreman assists the Inspector in his general duties, which have been made up of the following items:—

Inspections of houses for rat runs, defective ground surfaces, &c.,	647 visits.
Removal of sick and dead,	39 "
Service of notices,	269 "
Disinfections,	2 "
Prosecutions,	2 "
Miscellaneous,	47 "
	1,006

The other foreman supervises the two rat-collecting coolies who visit 200 sites of rat-traps per day and change 50 traps per day. The case-removing coolies have removed to the Mortuary 25 dead bodies and to the Hospital 1 sick person during this time.

HEALTH DISTRICTS III & IV.—Staff.—1 inspector, 2 foremen, 2 rat-collecting coolies. Work done by the inspector with the assistance of one foreman:—

Visits re rat-runs, defective concrete, etc.	798
Visits to houses where there are dead bodies	13
Service of notices	315
Disinfections	5
Miscellaneous	16
	1,147

The rat-collecting coolies' work and that of one foreman has been similar to that done in Health Districts I & II.

HEALTH DISTRICTS V & VI.—Staff as in Health Districts III & IV.—Work done by Inspector with one foreman:—

Visits re rat-runs and defective ground surfaces	753
Visits re dead bodies,	7
Service of notices	277
Disinfections	2
Miscellaneous	11
	1,50

The duties of the remaining foreman and the rat-coolies have been the same as in the previously mentioned districts.

HEALTH DISTRICTS VII & VIII.—Staff.—1 inspector for the two districts, also 2 foremen and 2 rat-collecting coolies, 1 temporary inspector at the Disinfecting Station, 1 clerk for Disinfecting Station, 1 temporary foreman for removal of sick, 17 artisans, 29 coolies, 5 foremen, 16 temporary case-removing coolies.—The work done by the Inspector with the assistance of one foreman comprises the following items:—

Service of notices	270
Visits re rat-runs, defective concrete, etc.	862
Visits re limewashing of godowns	85
Miscellaneous inspections	48
	1,265

The Temporary Inspector is employed the whole day at the Disinfecting Station, there being no permanent Inspector now in charge there since the departure of Inspector Allen on leave. The Clerk's time is taken up in attending to the telephones and in helping to keep registers. The temporary foreman for the removal of cases has superintended the removal of 7 patients to hospital in Districts 3 to 10. When not employed in the work he has to superintend the work which the coolies do in the up-keep of the apparatus. The 16 case-removing coolies are divided as follows:—8 allotted to the Tung Wah Hospital for removing cases to hospital and bodies to the Mortuary from the hospital, 4 removing bodies and cases from the Districts 3-10 to the Mortuary, and 4 visit the Italian Convent daily to remove bodies. These men also assist in conveying clothing to the Disinfecting Station and clean all ambulances and dead carts after use. They have removed 5 bodies from the Tung Wah Hospital, 7 from

the districts and 16. from the Convent during this period. Seven sick persons also have been removed to hospital by them.

HEALTH DISTRICTS IX & X.—Staff. 1 inspector, 2 foremen, 2 rat-coolies, 6 boatmen.

Work done by Inspector and one foreman:—

Disinfections	2
Visit re rat-runs and defective concrete, etc.,	501
Service of notices (rats) ...	140
" " (concrete) ...	16
Inspections of dead bodies ...	16
Visits to tanks and bath-houses in His Excellency's block, daily and Miscellaneous Visits ...	388

1,047

The inspection and cleansing of the boats is also supervised by the inspector. The other foreman and the rat-coolies do the same work as in other districts. The 6 boatmen—3 to each boat—remove bodies to the Plague Cemetery and store and clothing to and from the Disinfecting Station and Kowloon.

HEALTH DISTRICTS XI. & XII.—Staff. 1 inspector, 2 foremen, 3 rat-coolies, 3 artisans, 1 Chinese foreman, 11 Chinese coolies. The work done by the Inspector with one of his foremen comprises:—

Visits re rat-runs and defective concrete, etc.	744
Disinfections	9
Service of notices	169
Examination of dead bodies	9
Removal of sick and dead	9

1,021

In addition the inspector attends the Mortuary daily and superintends its cleansing and that of the stores and quarters at Kowloon. One foreman and the 3 rat-coolies have been employed daily as already mentioned. The 3 artisans, 11 coolies and 1 foreman have had 9 disinfections to carry out and in addition have had to supply the labour for removing bodies to and from the Mortuary, the sick to hospital, the cleansing of the Mortuary daily and the quarters and store-rooms at Kowloon.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF WORK DONE FROM NOVEMBER 6 TILL DECEMBER 1.

This work has been similar in character to that mentioned before, but in addition the plague inspectors have supervised the general cleansing of the floors in Victoria and Kowloon, while the staff of coolies has been chiefly employed in the distribution of soap solution to the people, cleansing, empty floors and looking after the water-tanks and boilers used in connection with the cleansing. The work of the artisans during this time has been of the same character as has been recorded before. The following table shows the number of visits paid by the inspector and the number of floors which have been cleansed under their supervision in Victoria and Kowloon:—

Visits of inspection for rat-runs and defective ground surfaces	812
Services of legal notices	463
Inspections of dead bodies	37
Disinfections	2
Removal of sick and dead	10
Inspections of houses cleansed by the people under the general cleansing scheme	7,458

Total... 8,782

CANTON.

Canton, 19th December.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE REGATTA.

The first day of the Canton Regatta passed off very pleasantly. A large number of spectators were present throughout, and beautiful weather was enjoyed, while the surface of the water was unruffled by any breeze, except during the earlier races. The result of the International Fours was a great disappointment to the supporters of the Union Jack. The British crew was beaten by $3\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. The Germans got away with a slightly better start than their opponents, and, taking the lead at once, led to the finish with a stroke of 39 to the British 27. No other result was expected by those in the know, for, owing to the retirement through "croaking" of No. 2 on Wednesday, an entirely new hand was rowing in the boat. In your

correspondent's opinion, however, the Germans would have pulled off the race anyhow, but by a smaller margin.

The Hong Pairs were won by the representatives of Messrs Arnhold Karberg, who defeated Messrs Varema & Co. by 8 lengths. The latter crew, however, won the International Pairs by 3 lengths, defeating British Colonials (an Australian and a Canadian). The British were unable to enter for this race owing to the illness of their stroke at the last moment. The Sculls were won by Mr. Imhoof, who walked away from his opponent. The Double Sculls, with ladycox, were won by Mrs. Grant and Messrs. Leslie and Purnell, who rowed over the course, their opponents having scratched. The best race of the afternoon was the last, that between the Club and Committee, a very close thing and well contested. Bad steering on the part of the Club cox lost his boat some ground, and the Committee won.

Half-a-dozen launches, and as many house-boats, together with two large flower-boats, conveyed spectators to the scene. Refreshments were provided by the Club on one of the flower-boats, and everything was done both by the Club and private individuals to make the afternoon a success. The races were started by Mr. Sutton, of the I. M. C., while Mr. Hug acted as judge and Mr. May as umpire. To these officials, and to Messrs Gilchrist, Pustan, and Sutton (Secs. of the Club), is due the success of a most enjoyable afternoon.

Canton, 20th December.

THE REGATTA.

The weather on the second day of the regatta was not as propitious as it had been on the first. A boisterous north wind interfered with the comfort of performers and spectators alike. Chief interest was centred on the Interport event, in which an interesting race was witnessed. It had been arranged that the winners of the International race and Mr. Imhoof's crew should compete against Hongkong. The race was rowed at 2 p.m., and as anticipated the Hongkong B.C. crew won by $2\frac{1}{2}$ lengths, although their No. 3 was unwell. The Germans were beaten by Imhoof's crew by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths, while the V.R.C. did not finish, their stroke "capturing a huge crustacean" when half the distance had been covered. The form of the winners was much admired. Koschler won from Kuntzel in the Sculls race by a distance. There were no other races of any particular interest. In the gig race, for which there were 6 entries, Arnhold Karberg's crew won. The barber boats with the same number of entries, caused some amusement. The barber boat is a kind of dug-out, and requires considerable practice to steer properly. This race was won by Gater from Destelan. In the Double Sculls Hongkong scratched, as Rouse was unwell, and Canton rowed over. The Canton Fours were won by Imhoof's crew easily, as their opponents had not rowed together before. The final race of the afternoon was the Canton Double Sculls, won by Allers and Kuntzel (3 and stroke in the German boat). The interval between the races was too long, but apart from this the second day was as enjoyable as the first. It is hoped that the regatta will become an annual affair.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

14th December.

JUNKS FOR THE STRAITS.

The annual appearance of junks to load for the Straits is represented this year by no less than eleven vessels, and it is said that three more will arrive in a few days to swell the number. Favoured by the north-east monsoon, which has already set in, these traders are confident that they will reach their destination within a fortnight. The bulk of the cargo carried by these vessels consists usually of earthenware and iron paus. Five of the junks have already left, and the others will follow in a short time. As a rule three or four sail together. Why such a large amount of tonnage is not carried in foreign bottoms and propelled by steam is a question that cannot easily be answered. Maybe the long-discussed "preferential duty" plays a prominent part here. The other reason that could

be advanced is that, considering the fragile nature of the goods generally carried by these junks, the liability of breakage is less on board them than on board steamers.

FATAL EXPLOSION.

A fatal accident happened in the harbour about 11 a.m. on the 12th instant. An old piece of ordnance burst on board a junk, killing two men and injuring two others. The circumstances in connection with the accident are as follows. The gun was, apparently, one of the ordinary 12-pounders we used to see on the decks of junks—an obsolete weapon that probably has seen its days of active service, but since left to rust in some obscure corner. It had been hoisted on board the junk again for active service, and for the purpose of testing it as to its usefulness, an ordinary charge of gunpowder was rammed in, but on firing, it burst.

THE NEW PREFECT.

Kwok Chi Chum, the Prefect of Lintchow, has gone into mourning owing to the death of his mother, and he will have to relinquish his office in consequence as soon as his successor arrives, who, it is mentioned, will be an official named Chi Ham Yat. This gentleman, I am informed, was formerly a *weiuyuen* in Pakhoi some ten years ago.

PORT ARTHUR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Port Arthur, 8th December.

THE PORT ARTHUR NAVAL CLUB.

One of the centres of civilisation in Port Arthur is the Naval Club where naval officers of all nations, visitors passing through, and foreign residents, who comply with the usual formalities, are treated with great hospitality by the Russian naval officers. It is difficult to exaggerate the kindness the non-Russian meets with here. The Englishman is especially well treated and is especially able to feel himself at home on account of the large numbers of officers who speak perfect English, and of the friendly feeling towards England that generally prevails.

There is a Ladies' Day once a week, on which occasion foreign ladies attend, and there is dancing; and once a week there is a sort of family dinner at which all the officers and their wives sit down to eat together. It is difficult to realise the extent to which these two little "fixtures" of the week contribute towards raising the tone of society in Port Arthur and exercising a salutary influence all around. It is difficult, indeed, to imagine the moral condition to which this fortress might soon be reduced (mind, I am not saying that it is perfect as it is) if the influence of the wives, sisters, and daughters of the officers was withdrawn. Where such an enormous number of men "bursting" almost, if I may use the expression, with vitality and high spirits is gathered together in one place, regrettable excesses are bound to result if a civilising influence is not exerted by woman; and therefore I think that Port Arthur is very lucky in having within its circle of batteries so many of the fair sex, and that it is to be regretted that all the officers now coming out have been forbidden to take their wives with them on account of the lack of accommodation here. Even now, however, Port Arthur holds a high, if not the highest, place in the Far East for the beauty of its womankind. This fact is not surprising considering that no city in Asia has such a large proportion of its population Europeans, and considering also that the climate is dry and bracing—a real "white man's" climate as they say—and therefore more favourable to the preservation of female beauty than that of Calcutta or Singapore. However that may be, my own melancholy reflections in Port Arthur have convinced me that, in Russia at all events, the soldiers and sailors get the pick of the ladies. The same view seems to be entertained by other authorities—perhaps more competent to judge than myself. I was showing a newspaper correspondent from Peking round town the other day and he waxed enthusiastic over the number of fair dames we met, but, as he came from Peking, his views ought not perhaps to have much weight attached to them. If Port Arthur were not such an expensive place to live in and such an awful

hole" generally, it would be undoubtedly the field of combat selected by "Old Campaigners" of the type portrayed by Thackeray in *Vanity Fair*—in other words by Russian matrons with marriageable daughters on their hands. To show the success that would be likely to wait upon the operations of such a female strategist, I need only mention the fact that here, as in Singapore, it seems impossible for hospitals and the like to keep nurses any length of time as they get married almost as soon as they come out. Returning to the main question, I shall prophesy that Port Arthur has every prospect of being quite a beautiful and remarkable city in some ten years' time. Its buildings will be fine, its climate will be as bracing as it is now and its sanitation better, it will have a viceregal court—probably more splendid than anything outside of India; and its harbour will have by that time become very much better than it is at present. A large number of globe-trotters and Far Eastern residents will also undoubtedly pass through it on their way to and from Europe. This desirable consummation would have been brought much nearer if so much money had not been spent on Dalian and thus diverted from Port Arthur.

A GARRISON CLUB.

Besides the Naval Club there is also a Garrison Club where private theatricals are frequently given, and the Officers' Club that is now being built in New Town will, I think, be one of the handsomest things of its kind in the Far East. It will cost about £50,000 sterling and will be sumptuously fitted up in every way, so that it will in fact be a regular palace in whose halls the highest of the Russian nobility might—and undoubtedly will—give and be given entertainments without any incongruity. Taking it all round, Port Arthur promises to be a magnificent social centre in a short time.

PORT ARTHUR IN 1903.

This is the title of an article which Colonel Artemieff writes in the *Novi Krai* of Sunday last. The Colonel takes a broader view of the question than one might have expected of a military man, for he thinks that now that Port Arthur has ceased to be a mere camp and become a busy commercial centre something should be done towards giving it the privileges enjoyed by other Russian towns and letting the commercial class have a greater voice in municipal concerns. The Colonel does not, of course, say that Port Arthur should be governed in exactly the same way as a Russian town. Its peculiar position necessarily requires some alteration in the municipal regulations in vogue in Russia. The two points on which the Colonel insists are: (1) the necessity of changing the present regulations concerning the rights of election possessed by householders; and (2) the necessity of appointing civilians to administer municipal affairs as in the West. The writer does not think that the foreign element is to be feared; on the contrary, he says that its co-operation in municipal affairs cannot but be for the great good of the town. "Finally," he asks, "is the population of Port Arthur, on the whole, of a worse type than the population of Shanghai; and, if it is not of a worse type, why not have popular Government here as well as in Shanghai?"

THE MANCHURIAN HIGHWAYMEN.

An expedition organised by the General Staff here against the Manchurian highwaymen who have been proving troublesome of late, has proved successful. The scene of the operations was the Liao River and the Chinese were under the command of Messieurs. Tulen-Sana and Falen-hoa—the fourth part of a brigade took part in the operations. In an action at the village of Vafin, the Highwaymen were completely defeated. The Russian losses were four killed and ten wounded, one officer being in the latter category. According to the official statement of the local Chinese administration, the bandits lost about two hundred killed and about as many wounded. This heavy loss on the part of the Chinese was due to a night attack being made by the Russians and to a panic among the bandits. Tulen-Sana lost his right hand, which was cut off at the wrist. The expedition did its work with deadly thoroughness. It travelled 400 versts west of the Liao River, and afterwards started on a new chase of the same length

back again and cornered the Chinese gang on the river. The Russian troops are said to have shown unusual endurance and bravery in the little campaign.

COREAN NOTES.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Mokpo, 1st December.

The commander of the Corean soldiers at Wiju who assaulted two Japanese there has sent a formal apology and punished the offenders. Also it was promised that compensation should be paid to the injured Japanese.

As the result of the protest lodged by the Japanese Minister in Seoul with regard to the prevention by the Russians of the landing of Mr. Hagiwara at Yong-ampho, the Russian Minister reprimanded the Russian lumber company's representative, who was responsible for the illegality.

Under the secret instruction of Yikonthak, Corean Minister of War, a Corean officer has left Seoul for Port Arthur. His mission is supposed to be connected with the engagement of Russian troops in Corea.

Reports of various arrogant acts of Russians in Northern Corea are daily received here.

The Corean Court is reported to have failed in its intention to borrow from Viceroy Alexieff 200 troops as palace-guards.

HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS CO., LTD.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held at the registered offices of the Company, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, at noon yesterday, for the purpose of receiving the report of the general managers together with a statement of accounts for the year ending 30th November, 1903. Those present were Mr. Hart Buck (chairman) and Messrs. Henry Humphreys, C. Ewens, A. H. Mancell, G. Murray Bain, R. K. Leigh, W. H. Gaskell, J. A. Tarrant, J. M. Wong, and J. L. Cotter (secretary).

THE CHAIRMAN:—Gentlemen, As you have doubtless seen the report and statement of accounts, I will with your permission consider them as read. I am pleased to say that our business during the last financial year has been as good as before and that we are in a position to pay an increased dividend. The improvements to the Station at the Upper Terminus have been completed and have given general satisfaction. As you are of course aware, our capital, \$125,000, does not in any way represent the value of our property; in fact if at the present time we were to construct a similar line with the same kind of buildings at the various stations, I think we should require a capital of at least \$500,000, which would naturally reduce our present substantial dividend to a comparatively insignificant one. I might add that in view of the fact that almost all the building sites in the Peak district are now built upon we must look to the visitors passing through the Colony for any future improvement in our returns. Before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

There being no questions, the Chairman moved that the report and statement of accounts be adopted.

MR. G. MURRAY BAIN:—Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in seconding that the report and accounts be adopted. I think shareholders will agree that the company is in a most satisfactory condition, financially and otherwise. The general managers deserve the greatest praise for the way in which they have managed the working of the business during the year.

Mr. Henry Humphreys proposed, Mr. A. H. Mancell seconded; and it was agreed that Mr. C. Ewens, the Hon. C. W. Dickson, and Mr. R. K. Leigh, be re-elected members of the consulting committee.

The Chairman proposed, Mr. R. K. Leigh seconded, and it was agreed that Mr. Potts and Mr. Gaskell be re-elected auditors for the ensuing year.

THE CHAIRMAN:—That concludes the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants will be ready at 3 o'clock to-day. I thank you for your attendance, gentlemen.

The following is the report:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you the report and statement of accounts for the year ending 30th November, 1903. The net profits for the twelve months, after paying charges and all running expenses, and making provision for auditors' fees, amount to ... \$41,315.68 To which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account 3,890.13

\$45,205.79

And from this has to be deducted remuneration to general managers (5 per cent. on gross earnings) ... 4,380.39

Leaving available for appropriation \$40,825.40

Your general managers and consulting committee recommend that a dividend of \$20 per share be paid to shareholders, absorbing \$25,000; that \$5,000 be written off rolling stocks and \$1,541.82 off stations and shelters; that \$5,000 be transferred to permanent reserve, and the balance, viz., \$4,283.58, be carried to new profit and loss account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. Orange having resigned, Mr. R. K. Leigh was invited to fill the vacancy, and accepted a seat on the Board. In accordance with Rule 15 of the company's articles of association, the present members, Mr. C. Ewens, the Hon. C. W. Dickson, and Mr. R. K. Leigh retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

In the absence of Mr. Fullerton Henderson from the Colony, the accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Potts and Mr. W. H. Gaskell. Mr. Potts and Mr. Gaskell offer themselves for re-election.

JOHN D HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 12th December, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

For the year ending 30th November, 1903.

	\$ c.
LIABILITIES.	
Capital account: 1,250 shares of \$100 each, fully paid up	1,250,000.00
Permanent reserve fund	25,000.00
Unclaimed dividends	340.00
Local and general liabilities	6,060.30
Profit and loss: brought forward \$1,890.13	41,315.68
Profit and loss: for current year	45,205.79
	\$201,606.09

	\$ c.
ASSETS.	
Permanent way, concession and deed of grant as per last account	125,000.00
Stations, Crown leaseholds and buildings (inland lots 1,317, 1,312, 1,333, 1,334, 1,335, 1,333 and R. B. lot 86)	15,418.25
Rolling stock	27,952.99
Furniture account	125.00
Coals and stores in hand	1,492.59
Accounts receivable	750.47
Cash in H. and S. Bank	\$28,993.29
Cash and compradore's orders in hand	1,873.50
	\$201,606.09

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Cr.
To salaries and wages	22,519.20
To maintenance and repairs	5,261.18
To charges	3,174.35
To oils and stores	9,763.45
To rates, Crown rent and fire insurance	1,078.64
To godown and station rent	\$2,10
Less sundry debts received	64.67
	1,495.33
To office rent and clerks' salaries	\$3,000.00
To balance	45,205.79
	\$91,497.94

Dr.	Cr.
By amount brought forward from last year	\$3,890.13
By transfer fees	4.01
By traffic receipts for the year to date	\$6,083.18
By interest	259.78
By steel rails	1,260.85
	\$91,497.94

STEAM LAUNDRY CO., LTD.

The first annual meeting of the shareholders in the Steam Laundry Company, Limited, was held on the 12th ult. at the Works, the registered office of the company, Causeway Bay, next door to Kennedy's Stables. Mr. W. Hutton Potts, the company's chairman, presided, and there were also present Messrs. D. E. Brown (Director), C. Mooney (Secretary), F. G. Allen (Manager), Mak Fuk, and Li Ynk.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said:—With your concurrence, I propose to dispense with the reading of the report of the board and the statement of accounts, which have been in your possession for several days. As you are aware, this company is the successor of the Hongkong Steam Laundry Company, Limited, registered in August, 1900, whose assets and liabilities we took over on the 1st June, 1902, the shareholders in the old company receiving in exchange for their ten dollar share one of five dollars in this company, and those of us who were members of the old company have had, like many other shareholders in local industries, to pay for our experience by the loss of half of our capital; and under these circumstances we are the more pleased that we are now in a position to recommend a dividend of 8 per cent., or 4 per cent. on our original investment. With regard to repairs and renewals (\$3,534.47), this may seem large for one year's work, but you must remember that work has been carried on continuously since September, 1900, and it was only during the period covered by the account now before you that the machinery began to wear out, and repairs and renewals became necessary, though we believe they will always be a large item, so much of the plant being constantly wet, the washing machines in particular soon deteriorating. From the formation of our predecessor we have had innumerable difficulties to contend with, one of the principal being accommodation, the present building being badly designed and much too small, with no ground for drying in the open. The water supply was also a cause of great inconvenience and anxiety, it being impossible during the last two winters to obtain sufficient for our requirements during the one or two hours it was supposed to be turned on in the town mains, but, fortunately, after purchasing for some little time from water boats, we struck a good flow of water in the wells sunk in our compound. Another trouble was and continues to be, though in a lessened degree, the unreasonable claims put forward by some of our patrons for loss or damage, which if entertained would probably have caused the closing of the works. Some people seem to have an idea that because we are a company nothing should go wrong, forgetful or indifferent to the fact that we have to depend on the native workman who has to be educated to our system, and his work closely supervised to ensure his natural tendency to fold up without remark a damaged or soiled article which is in many cases returned in a condition that brings discredit on the Laundry, it being quite impossible for the sorters to open up and inspect every article out of a daily washing of four or five thousand pieces. It has been through constant worry and persistent effort that the above mentioned troubles have been partly overcome and we are able to show the present results. We can congratulate ourselves that ours is, as far as we are aware, the only steam laundry in the East that has survived native opposition, which always carries with it the pecuniary sympathy of the native domestic, and the fact that we have been able to carry on makes it evident that the cleanliness of our methods and the punctuality of our delivery is appreciated, and that our patrons no longer being doubtful as to where their clothes have been laundered, or have been lying for a week or more, are more inclined to look over our shortcomings. The accounts have been kept back until now, the money being required to meet monthly expenses, and it being safer to see how the current year would be before paying the dividend which we now recommend.

We are glad to say that our earnings up to the present compare favourably with the same

period last year, and with an increase in our already large shipwork, this year should show better results. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions. There being no questions, I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented be passed.

Mr. D. E. Brown seconding, it was unanimously carried.

On the proposal of Mr. Mooney, seconded by Mr. Allezi, Mr. Brown, the retiring director, was re-elected.

The re-election of Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin as auditor of the company was agreed to, on the proposal of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Brown.

The Chairman then intimated that that was all the business before the meeting and that dividend warrants would be sent out to shareholders next day.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 18th December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED DEFILEMENT OF A GIRL.

Li Tsoi was brought up on a charge of defilement of a girl under 16 years of age.

The Attorney-General, Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, who appeared for the Crown (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor) stated that since the indictment was filed he had had a communication from the Principal Civil Medical Officer which put it beyond doubt that the girl was above the age. He therefore did not propose to proceed further with the case. He believed his friend Mr. Pollock had been instructed to defend.

The prisoner was discharged.

In connection with the same case Chu Kiu was brought up on a charge of having suffered a girl under age to be carnally known on her premises.

The Attorney-General stated that he desired to pursue the same course with regard to this woman as had been followed in regard to the previous case.

Chu Kiu having been called up, his Lordship formally discharged her, remarking that he understood she kept a sly brothel and, although she was discharged in this particular case, she must be very careful what she was about; otherwise she would get into trouble. There was no doubt that she kept young girls on her premises.

The prisoner was discharged.

THE CHARGE AGAINST SERGT. LEE.

Sergeant J. F. Lee was brought up on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the accidental shooting of Mr. MacGregor in the New Territory.

The Attorney-General said he had come to the conclusion, after reading the depositions, that there was no ground for proceeding with the prosecution. He accordingly asked his Lordship to discharge the defendant.

His Lordship discharged the defendant accordingly. He said he had read the depositions and had no doubt that this was an accident—a really melancholy accident. It was exceptional. There might have been some carelessness but he was sure that Sergeant Lee regretted the event as much as any one in Court.

The Attorney-General said he hoped his Lordship might add that there was no stain of any kind on Sergeant Lee's character.

His Lordship said he did not think there was any stain on Sergeant Lee's character. It was purely an accident—they would occur sometimes—and as far as he could see from the depositions, although the Magistrate was quite right in sending the matter to the Supreme Court for their decision, he thought there was no moral guilt attaching to Sergeant Lee in any way.

Sergeant Lee was discharged.

AN UNDESIRABLE.

Lam Hing's name appeared on the list as having returned from banishment.

The Attorney-General stated that since the defendant had been committed for trial it had

been discovered that he was a British subject having been born in the New Territory.

The Chief Justice discharged the man, and added that although he was discharged on a technical point it was quite clear that he was an undesirable character. Otherwise he would not have been banished. As he had the right to remain in the colony, his Lordship hoped that he would amend his ways and be a respectable member.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Tsui Lin Lo Cheong and Fung Liu were charged with armed robbery, and Lo Kun Tai was charged with receiving stolen goods.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. A. Becker, L. A. Rose, A. G. Roberts, A. Ritchie, E. W. Terry, P. Plage, and G. H. May.

The Attorney-General said that on 18th October several men with faces blackened entered a boat at Loohaiwan and stole \$50 in money and a quantity of jewelry, etc. They were armed with revolvers and used force in dealing with the occupants of the boat.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty.

The first three prisoners were sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour and 24 strokes of the birch; the fourth was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Four Chinese were brought up on a charge of having been concerned in an armed robbery at Loohaiwan on the 18th and 19th inst. They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. A. Becker, A. Rose, A. G. Roberts, A. Ritchie, E. W. Terry, P. Plage and G. H. May.

The Attorney-General stated that on the evening in question the prisoners with their faces blackened boarded the defendant's boat and stole the money mentioned in the indictment as well as some articles of jewelry.

The jury found the charge proven, and his Lordship sentenced the accused to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Saturday, 19th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

TSO CHEUNG SHI v. TO SHING.

Judgment was delivered in the case in which Tso Cheung Shi, widow, 161, Queen's Road West, suing as executrix of Tsoi Heung Po deceased, claimed from To Shing, 22, Peel Street, \$28,000 money received and \$12,000 damages for breach of contract in respect of the building of two steamships. Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors), was for the defendant.

His Lordship in delivering judgment said—This is an action brought by the executrix of the late Tsoi Heung Po against a shipbuilder named To Shing, claiming damages for the non-delivery of a small steam vessel, one of two which he had contracted to deliver to Tsoi. The damages claimed amount to \$40,800, namely \$28,000, being the amount paid by Tsoi to To Shing between certain dates on account of the vessel, \$12,000, representing the difference between \$28,000 paid and \$40,000 for which, it is alleged, the vessel, if delivered according to contract, could have been sold by Tsoi, and \$800, representing certain materials or fittings, not included in the specification, paid for by Tsoi and used in the steam vessel, the value of which it is alleged that Tsoi lost because the vessel was not delivered to him but to someone else. It seems that one Henry Piry, trading as H. Piry and Company, had acquired certain concessions from the French authorities at Kwong Chow Wan with regard to opium and other commodities, and wished to raise the necessary capital to utilise and develop those concessions, and to procure suitable steam vessels for purposes connected therewith. Accordingly, he associated with himself three Chinese who could provide some, at least, of the money required, namely Chan Tuk

Shang, Tse Lee Ching and Tsoi Heung Po, whom I will allude to as Tsoi. Their relations were not at first regulated by any partnership agreement, and when Simon Daniel Piry, the brother of Henry Piry, came to Hongkong, from Shanghai, about June, 1901, to look after matters, presumably in the interests of Henry, who was most of the time away managing matters at Kwong Chow Wan, he suggested the necessity of having something in writing to show the relations of the parties to each other in business. Accordingly, three documents were signed by H. Piry and Company—meaning, I presume, H. Piry—and by Chan, Tse and Tsoi (whose executrix is bringing this action). They are dated 16th July, 1901. I quote from the translations. The first begins by reciting as follows: "Now we have invited our companions to establish the Kwong Chow Wan Shipping Company, Limited, and the Kwong Chow Wan Raw and Prepared Opium Company, Limited." Then certain regulations are set out. The first was as follows, "Partners of this Company have not hitherto made any agreement with Piry and Company. Now this agreement is made as real proof. The name of Piry and Company, or Piry, shall be used in doing all business and building steamships." The second reads as follows: "All the above mentioned business carried on by this Company at Canton, Hongkong and Chek Hom shall be handed to Piry and Co. to manage and carry on, on their behalf. The managers of Piry and Company are Chan Yuk Shang and Piry." Various other regulations followed. To read this one would suppose it was contemplated to form two limited companies under the Companies' Ordinances, rather than a partnership, but Mr. Simon Piry deposed that this was not so. The other two agreements are, respectively, the regulations of the Kwong Chow Wan Shipping Company, Limited, (as it is called), and of the Kwong Chow Wan Opium Company, Limited. The first four clauses of the Shipping Company's agreement are as follows:—1. This Company has decided to make an agreement, with regulations, with Piry & Co. 2. This Company shall carry on the shipping and saltpetre and sulphur business in Canton, Hongkong and Kwong Chow Wan. 3. It is proposed that a capital of \$50,000 shall be subscribed for this Company. (Shares are then set out). 4. All the capitals subscribed have been paid up in full." As regards the Opium Company, the first article stated that—This Company has decided to make an agreement with Piry & Co., with regulations to do the Kwong Chow Wan Raw and Prepared Opium (business) and exporting prepared opium. The second article provided for a capital of \$120,000, of which Piry was to hold \$10,000 and the three Chinese \$110,000 shares between them; and the third article stated that all the capitals subscribed had been paid up in full. Now, these documents are by no means a satisfactory substitute for a proper partnership agreement constituting Henry Piry, Chan, Tse, and Tsoi partners in an ordinary firm, although the relationship between them has been assumed by the defendant all through the case to be that they were, all four, simply members of the firm of Piry & Co. But, assuming, as I will, that some sort of partnership existed, it is clear from the evidence that when those three agreements were signed not only had all the \$50,000 capital of the shipping business been consumed, but that the shipping company or business had already had to borrow some \$70,000 from the \$120,000 capital, or supposed capital, of the Opium Company. It seems clear, therefore, that the Shipping Company was not in a position to pay for extra steamers, unless fresh capital was introduced. This was in or about July, 1901. Now, at that time, the defendant was building two steam vessels which were originally intended to be used in connection with the carriage of opium and freight, and in the careless, unbusinesslike way in which matters seem to have been conducted, no proper written contract for such building had been made. It did not appear at what dates payments on account of such building were to be made to the builder. It, however, appears that the two ships were ordered verbally on 14th February, 1901, and 7th April, 1901, respectively, and that the first was to cost \$48,000, and the other \$30,000, and that there were written Chi-

nese tenders and specifications, and that the defendant in those tenders agreed to complete the first steamer within nine months from 14th February, 1901, and the second, within eight months from 7th April, 1901. Thus both were to be completed in 1901. The shipbuilder had, by about August, 1901, received some \$49,000 on account, principally from Chan, but could not complete without further payments, and H. Piry and Co. had no funds available. Henry Piry was away down south. He left by the beginning of August, 1901, and was away over two years. Tse and Chan would not find further capital for these two ships and, eventually, Tsoi agreed to do so, but, to protect himself, wanted them handed over to him by the builder when finished. This being the state of things, the defendant, in my opinion, not caring who got the ships so long as he was paid for them, went to Mr. Dennys' office on October 7, 1901, and, according to the evidence of Mr. Dennys' interpreter, Yam Kwan Un, asked Mr. Dennys to have the written contract with regard to the building of the two steamers made out in Tsoi's name. Next day, the defendant went again to Mr. Dennys' office with Tsoi and Chan and they arranged to have the agreement made in Tsoi's name, and not in Piry's. The original tenders with the specifications were addressed and headed 'To Un Chan Yuk Shang.' Accordingly, on October 9, a formal agreement was drawn out putting Tsoi in Chan's shoes, as it were, reciting the previous payments of \$49,000 and stipulating quite simply and clearly that To Shing (the defendant) would complete the two ships and hand them over to Tsoi, and that Tsoi would pay the balance of \$29,000 to the defendant in due course. This agreement was interpreted to the defendant and the interpreter deposed that they all appeared to understand it, and the defendant acknowledged in writing, at the end of the agreement, witnessed by Mr. Dennys, the receipt of \$15,000 on account of the \$29,000. I find, as a fact, that the defendant understood the agreement and its contents perfectly well when he and Tsoi and Chan signed it. Mr. Simon Piry knew of the agreement very soon afterwards and, although holding a power of attorney from his brother, Henry, he says he did not like it, yet he made no formal objection to it. On May 14, 1902, the defendant signed a receipt for \$12,000 more from Tsoi, making, with the previous \$15,000, altogether \$27,000 received on account of the final \$29,000 from Tsoi. The receipt was witnessed by Mr. Dennys and a memorandum in his writing was added and signed by Tsoi and the defendant as follows:—"It is hereby agreed between the parties hereto that the second steamer referred to in the above mentioned agreement shall be completed and ready for her trial trip within three months from this date, and that \$2,000, the balance of the above mentioned sum of \$29,000, shall be paid by Tsoi to To Shing upon the said second steamer satisfactorily completing her trial trip, and that all the goods purchased by the said To Shing to be used on board the steamer already delivered to the said Tsoi under the above agreement, and the extra work done to the said completed steamer under the said agreement, have been paid for by the said Tsoi prior to this date—May 14, 1902." The agreement was made at the office of a thoroughly respectable solicitor, and I do not believe that the defendant was in any way misled. This agreement or memorandum extended the original time for completing the second steamer ready for her trial trip to August 14, 1902. The first steamer was duly delivered. All the defendant had to do was to comply with the terms of this contract. Tsoi died on August 29, 1902, and on November 22, 1902, probate of his will was granted to the plaintiff. She, through her solicitors, wrote in due course requiring the defendant to carry out his contract and, on January 19, 1903, gave notice that unless the steamer was ready for delivery, after satisfactory trials within one calendar month from that date, the plaintiff would treat the contract as broken by the defendant and would sue for damages. Instead of carrying out his contract, the defendant, who had other claims for other matters against Piry and Co., after trying to get these claims settled by Tsoi's executrix and others, finally handed over the steamer to Simon Piry, about the end of January, 1903, who sold it to Edwards and others for \$28,000. Edwards was

interested in a company of which Simon Piry was manager. Simon Piry deposed that out of the \$28,000 he paid to the defendant \$10,000, money he alleges to have been due to the defendant from Piry and Co., and that he remitted \$12,000 for a payment in connection with the Opium Farm, and that he sent most of the balance of \$6,000 to his brother, Henry Piry, who had been engaged in litigation with Tsoi and others at Kwong Chow Wan. In doing this he, in no way, consulted with Tse or Chan or Tsoi. He was rather furnishing his brother with money to fight them. He may have been acting in his brother's interest, but he was clearly not acting for either Tse, Chan, or Tsoi. Indeed, whatever partnership or association had existed between those persons and Henry Piry had been dissolved and a liquidation ordered by a French Court in August 1902, and the property at Kwong Chow Wan and Canton had been seized and an advertisement inserted in the *Daily Press* by the French Consul at Canton, dated September 25, 1902, announcing that liquidation had been ordered. It is clear, therefore, that the defendant broke his contract and that Tsoi or his estate lost thereby the \$27,000 he paid under the agreement of October 9, 1901, and the \$800 he had expended on certain iron work used in the vessel. As regards the item of profit he would have made by selling the vessel at a higher price, it was stated by Tai Chip Sun that he got an offer on behalf of Tsoi about the end of June or early in July, 1902, from a man named Lum, a Fokbienese, to buy this second ship when completed for \$40,000, if it was finished within two months from that time. But in view of the later letters requiring the ship to be finished ready for delivery within one month from January 19th, 1903, and, looking at the whole circumstance of the case, I do not feel I ought to give damages under this head. The plaintiff was entitled to delivery of a ship costing and worth at least \$30,000, on payment of \$2,000, after satisfactory trial trip. The defendant to suit his own purposes and to enforce payment of other claims broke his contract and handed that ship over to Simon Piry or Edwards, whereupon it was promptly taken out of the jurisdiction of this Court. The plaintiff also lost the \$800 he paid for iron work to be used on the ship and which was used for that purpose. In the result I give judgment for the plaintiff for \$28,800 with costs.

The Court then adjourned *sine die*.

Monday, 21st December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE):

THE WILD DELL MURDER CASE.

Tsang Tim Kwai and Tsang Shang were charged with having on 10th May murdered a woman named Leung So.

They pleaded not guilty, and were defended by Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. P. Flage, E. W. Terry, B. Christiansen, E. V. D. Parr, J. O. E. Meyer, T. C. Downing, and W. F. Bassford.

The Hon. Attorney-General, Sir Henry S. Berkeley (who was instructed by Mr. H. Hursthouse of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley), stated in opening the case that the prisoners were charged with the unlawful murder of the concubine of one Tsang Mook. In other words the two assassins, who were of the same surname as the woman's husband, were charged with having murdered the concubine of the third man. The case for the Crown was that these two men murdered this woman at the request and on the payment by the third man, whose concubine the woman was. The husband was not in custody. He had since absconded from the Colony, and was out of reach of justice, if he was guilty. The facts of the case showed that on 10th May Mr. White was disturbed by disturbance on the road outside his house in Wild Dell. He heard some one quarrelling and afterwards piercing shrieks and screams. He ran out and found a Chinese woman lying on the edge of the road with a terrible wound in her abdomen. Almost immediately after his arrival a

Chinese watchman came up and heard a statement from the dying woman's lips which would be offered in evidence. This statement was made by the woman at the very point of death. For sometime the matter remained a mystery; no clue could be had as to who committed the deed. The woman died the day after she was found lying wounded, so that from that date till October no one was arrested on the charge of being implicated in the outrage. The police however were making enquiries and ultimately from information received they had been able as the Crown believed to bring home the charge against the two men who stood empanelled. Of course the Jury would understand that the plot about the assassination of this woman was kept absolutely secret but for some reason or other there was a split among those who were cognisant of the crime. They would have to rely on the evidence of a man who was not an accomplice but who undoubtedly was aware beforehand of what was going to be done and knew all about it. He would tell the jury that on the 9th of May he was in an opium divan when the two prisoners came in. He said he knew them. He also knew the husband of the deceased woman and on the night before-hand the two men came into the divan where he was together with the husband of the deceased. They were altogether in the shop. He heard the husband say that he was very much ashamed on account of the conduct of his wife and proceeded to say that it would give him great satisfaction if some one would kill her. The second prisoner then asked how much the husband would offer and was told by the husband that he would get \$30 if he did the deed. This witness would also state that the husband was in the divan when the prisoners came in. They all talked about the matter that had been arranged on the previous night between the husband and the second prisoner about the killing and according to the witness's story he heard them say that they would go out that night about that business. He (the witness) said it was not right to go about this business and told the prisoners it was a very serious matter. They had offered him some money to say nothing about it. This he refused.

After hearing evidence, the jury found the charge proving.

His Lordship sentenced the men to death.

Tuesday, 22nd December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

COMMITTALS TO THE SESSIONS.

The Hon. Attorney-General, Sir Henry S. Berkeley (who was instructed by Mr. H. Hursthouse, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley), stated that in the last case on the list, in which the defendants were Chan Sui and Wong Hing Kwai, he did not intend to present an indictment against the second, and he asked that he be discharged. He proposed to take that case in the afternoon if the witnesses came in from the New Territory. Otherwise he would have to ask the Court to sit on the following day.

His Lordship—When was this case committed?

The Attorney-General—The 17th. His Lordship said he was not at all sure that the case should be taken at the present Sessions. The old practice so far as he could recollect it was that prisoners were entitled to four days' grace. The Sessions began on the 18th, and they had everything arranged for them, and now on the 22nd he had the depositions and indictment put into his hands for the first time. Probably it would be better to ask the prisoner if he wished his case to be taken at these Sessions. In future it would be better not to commit cases the night before. In England it was different, for there was a grand jury sitting and they had nothing else to do but to take the bills that came before them. Here the Attorney-General had to draft the indictments himself, and when the Session had begun he had to be in Court all day long and had not time to deal with late cases.

The Attorney-General said that they would take that course in future.

His Lordship added that he would be glad if they would not commit cases after, say, the 16th. Later cases should be adjourned till the next month's Sessions in order to allow the depositions to be got ready.

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST A JAPANESE.

Tosuke Tabai, a young Japanese, was charged with the manslaughter of a Chinese coolie at Quarry Bay on the 8th December.

He pleaded not guilty and was defended by Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. Hays, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors).

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. C. L. Gorham, C. B. H. Schumacker, A. Reid, G. Rust, G. H. May, S. A. Joseph, and J. Christie.

The Attorney-General in opening the case stated that it was alleged that when the deceased coolie was working coal on the steamer *Mandasan Maru* some trouble arose between the prisoner, who was acting as tallyman, and the deceased. It was alleged that prisoner pushed the deceased coolie over the side of the ship into the water, with the result that the coolie was drowned. The body was not found for some time afterwards, when it was discovered that fracture of the skull had caused death. The case for the defence before the Magistracy, and he presumed it would be the same there, was that while the prisoner was in charge of the coaling gang he spoke to the deceased about the way he was doing his work, whereupon the coolie became insolent and threw a lump of coal at the prisoner, who jumped up from his seat and rushed towards him; that the coolie was frightened and on his way over the side of the ship fell into the water, and that the prisoner was not close to him when he so fell. It did not require that the prisoner should actually push the man over the side to be guilty of manslaughter, for if one person pursued another and the latter was in fear of his life and jumped overboard the former would be guilty of causing his death. But that was not the case for the Crown; their case was that the prisoner pursued the man and caused him to fall overboard—pushed him over the side with his hands.

Evidence was then taken for the prosecution, similar to that which had been given when the case was before the Magistracy.

Mr. Sharp, K.C., in opening the defence said there was no doubt that this coolie, or a coolie, died from a blow received in falling overboard from the *Mandasan Maru*. Also they made no question that the unhappy defendant was concerned in the matter. Nobody regretted that circumstance more than the defendant himself. The only question for the jury was what the defendant did. He thought he would be able to satisfy them that he did nothing unlawful or improper in any way, and that the death of this coolie was caused by misadventure; that was to say, it was an unfortunate accident. Defendant was one of three tally clerks working on the ship. There were three scales alongside the hatch. Prisoner was sitting at the front scale and the two other tally clerks at the two others. Coal was being taken out of the ship by coolies, and after it was weighed at these scales it was put down the shoots. The tally clerks were troubled by the coolies trying to "squeeze" coal. It amounted to this, that more coal was taken off a ship than was weighed. How the coolies disposed of it afterwards to their advantage need not be enquired into. Naturally the coolies cherished no goodwill towards the tally clerks whose principal duty it was to prevent this petty theft of coal. It was the essence of their position that they should not be very much liked by the coolies in whose way in this respect they were obliged to stand. The defendants had been obliged to recall several baskets of coal before this unfortunate accident. No doubt the coolies were a little annoyed. Just before the accident a lump of coal was thrown at the defendant. It struck him on the head but did not hurt him much. He did not see who threw it. Then a second lump was thrown; he saw who threw it this time; it was the deceased. He got up from his chair and went towards the coolie to hand him over to the foreman. The man, knowing what he had done, ran away and in going down the gang

plank leading from the ship to the wharf he slipped off, fell into the water and was killed.

Evidence for the defence was given by fellow-countrymen of the defendant.

After counsel had addressed the jury and his Lordship had summed up, a verdict of not guilty was returned and the accused was discharged. The Court adjourned till to-day at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, 23rd December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ARMED ROBBERY IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

Chan Sui and Wong Hing Kwai, who had been committed on a charge of being concerned in several acts of theft at Taitung village in the New Territory on the 23rd November, were brought up.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law, who appeared for the Crown (instructed by Mr. H. Hursthouse, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley), asked that the second defendant, Wong Hing Kwai, be discharged.

His Lordship stated that the Attorney-General had informed him on the previous day that he was not going to file any information against this man as he did not consider the evidence satisfactory; and as there was no information filed the second defendant had better be discharged by proclamation.

Wong Hing Kwai was accordingly discharged. The case against Chan Sui was proceeded with, the charge being receiving stolen goods.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. E. H. Summers, A. T. F. Bune, B. J. Spittles, G. H. May, C. B. H. Schumacher, A. Becker, and W. Domnich.

Mr. Sharp said the charge against the prisoner was receiving stolen goods knowing them to have been stolen. The goods, consisting of clothing and jewelry, were stolen by an armed gang of robbers on the night of 28th November last from two adjoining houses in Taitung village and were found shortly afterwards in the prisoner's house in the neighbouring village of Ping Un. The only inmates of the houses where the robbery occurred were women, who were so terrified that they were unable to identify the robbers. Therefore this man was charged not with being concerned in the robbery but with having received the stolen goods. Three robbers were seen by the women inmates, but it was believed the gang was larger. The two houses were rifled of everything of value—in one case to the extent of about \$100 and in the other of \$60 or \$70. The robbers intimidated the women with firearms and the latter were so frightened that they hid under the bed-clothes. A few days afterwards, in consequence of information received, the police obtained a warrant to search the prisoner's house and found there nearly the whole of the stolen property. Some of it was concealed. One bundle of clothing was found in a tub of grain. So it was perfectly evident that the man tried to conceal the fact that he had these goods in his house. He was at first charged with actual robbery and he then made a statement which amounted to an admission of the offence with which he now stood indicted. He gave the name of the man who organised the robbery and said that this man brought the goods to his house and asked him to take care of them for him. Prisoner took them knowing them to have been stolen. In fact, he admitted the offence of receiving; and the jury, Mr. Sharp said, should have no hesitation in finding him guilty of that charge.

After hearing evidence the jury found the prisoner guilty as charged.

His Lordship passed sentence of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Court rose.

The S. Petersburg *Vedomosti* states that it is intended to send to the Far East next year the Russian transport *Kamchatka*, of 7,200 tons, which has been built at the new Admiralty yards, and is now lying in the Neva. She is designed to supply coal to warships afloat, and has accommodation for 3,500 tons; also for 32 officers, 1,000 men, and 16 horses.

SUICIDE OF J. S. REUBEN.

The inquest into the cause of the death of Mr. J. S. Reuben, at the Waverley Hotel on Monday morning, under circumstances already reported in these columns, was held on the 22nd inst. at the Magistracy, Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Police Magistrate, presiding. The first witness called was Dr. Hunter, who said that on Monday afternoon the body of the deceased was brought to the Mortuary, where he, witness, made a post-mortem examination of the remains, from which he found the cause of death was carbolic acid poisoning. Chun Chua, called, stated that he was the room-boy at the Waverley Hotel. On Monday morning he went into the room as usual to give Mr. Reuben his coffee. Witness noticed that he appeared strange and immediately went and called his mistress, the proprietress of the hotel, who went back with him, and then found that the man was dead. The police were immediately notified.

Henry Evans, P.C., said on Monday morning he was called to the Waverley Hotel, and taken to room No. 12. He saw deceased in bed. He was lying on his side in bed with the bed-clothes up to his chest. He was wearing a dark suit of clothes, but without shoes or socks. The body was quite cold. The table in the centre of the room was in great disorder, and on the table was a glass, in which, the doctor said, was carbolic acid. Witness smelt the glass and thought it was carbolic acid. He then took possession of the room and locked the door. He sent a boy up to the Central Station, when Sergt. Sullivan came down and examined the room. The body was then removed to the Central Station, and later to the Mortuary by order of the inspector on duty. That was about 1.30 p.m. On the table were several letters; one was open (produced). Two other letters were found. One was addressed to Joseph Benjamin, Esq. Mr. Benjamin being in court, this letter was handed to him, and having read the same he said there was something in it. The letter was then handed to the Magistrate. In this letter deceased said he was short of money, and had to pay a debt of \$200 in the morning, but was too shy to ask his employers, or his Christian friends, for an advance, and prayed that he might be forgiven for this act, which his trouble compelled him to. He said he was dying because he was intoxicated, but that his debts would all be paid, as among his papers he had a promissory note for \$500. He did not mention the names of his employers. Another letter was addressed to a member of the committee of the Jewish synagogue, and that letter was also opened by the addressee in court, who stated that the purport of the letter was a request to the community to pardon him for this act, but he was driven to it by distress. The letter was written in Hebrew. Chun Chua, recalled, said he saw the glass on the table in the room. He saw something in it. He did not know how the deceased got the carbolic acid.

The watchman at the Waverley Hotel was called, and said he was on duty on the night of the 20th. He saw the deceased enter the hotel in the morning. The hotel closes at 12 m. He saw the deceased go out at 6.20 p.m. on the 20th. He came back at 11.30 p.m., and after going to his room for a few minutes, he came down again and gave him a large number of books to wrap up. The deceased took the books away with him in a chair, and returned at 1.30 a.m. Witness let him in. He did not seem to be in liquor. He walked slowly upstairs.

Lo Gulla, boy at the hotel, called, said on the morning of the 21st inst., at about 8.30, Chun Chua came and called him to the room of the deceased. He was fully dressed, except for his boots and socks. He was dead. He did not notice any marks on his mouth. He did not notice a glass on the table. Smelling the glass he said there was no such disinfectant in the hotel. They used Jeyes' fluid. He did not know how the deceased got the acid. Witness took the police to the room. No bottle was found.

Verdict:—The cause of death was carbolic acid poisoning, the carbolic acid being self-administered.

SPORTING NOTES.

(*Daily Press*, 19th December.)

To-day sees rather a pause in cricket, as far as the leading players are concerned, before the two great matches on the 25th and 26th inst. and 1st and 2nd prox. respectively, when the height of the local cricket season is practically reached. The Cricket Ground to-day will be occupied by the H.K.C.C. reserves and the A.O.C., who meet in a League match. The Club reserves are in the unenviable position of having to struggle to avoid the wooden spoon, but it is hard to believe that this is their proper place. Never yet have they appeared at anything like full strength—perhaps in their opening match they were best represented until to-day—yet they have not been beaten by much in any of their three matches. Last week, with almost an emergency team, they made a very creditable struggle against the unbeaten Civil Service C.C., and might have won had all chances been accepted. To-day they have a much better eleven. Two other League matches are down for decision, both in the Happy Valley, the Craigengower C.C. meeting the Tamar, and the Civil Service the Parsees.

The most interesting football game to-day is the Rugby match between the Club and the Navy, the latter owing to the presence of so many warships in the Harbour being unusually strong. The Club, on the other hand, is not at its best, prominent absentees being Lieut. P. H. Campbell, Fletcher, Halifax, and Goldring. On recent form the Navy must start favourites. Under Association rules the V.R.C. and Naval Yard teams meet at Causeway Bay. The game should give some indication of the prospects of the two clubs in the coming competition.

The draw for the first round of the Association Shield seems likely to provide some interesting games. Of the six Naval teams entered, two are drawn together—H.M.S. *Glory*, the holders, and H.M.S. *Leviathan*. The *Albion* and *Ocean* get byes, the *Tamar* meets the V.R.C., and the *Cressy* the Royal Engineers. The latter, the Sherwood Foresters, and the Royal Artillery have all entered regimental teams, and it is obvious that the military intend to make a bold bid for the Shield this year. The alteration in the rules should make the chance of an Army victory as great as it was in the days of the Welsh Fusiliers, though the latter had only company teams in. Three civilian entries have been secured, the H.K.F.C., the V.R.C. F.C., and the Rovers, a new organisation. The H.K.F.C. ought to be able to oust the Naval Yard team, though the latter has not been seen at its best yet—a remark which applies to the old Club also. The V.R.C. meet perhaps the weakest naval team, in the *Tamar*, and may get into the second round; but the Rovers look out of it against the Foresters. I fancy that the survivors in the five ties of the first round will be the *Glory*, the V.R.C., the H.K.F.C., the *Cressy*, and the Sherwood Foresters. The round has to be finished by the 30th prox.

The Regatta over, the V.R.C.'s next great event will be the athletic sport, taking place in March. Training has not yet commenced. Aquatic sports, of course, are some nine months distant. The final function in connection with Victoria Regatta is the regatta dinner. It is to be held at Kowloon Hotel next Wednesday, commencing at 8 p.m. Mr. A. Chapman, chairman of the V.R.C., will preside. The H.K. Boat Club has agreed to take part in the function. It would greatly assist Mr. H. C. Austen, secretary of the V.R.C., if all those wishing to attend will kindly send in their names as soon as possible. There is a whisper that the V.R.C. oarsmen, though not coming near the standard of International crews, as was proved at the regatta, have not practised as much as might be expected. At all events, the secretary of the V.R.C., and the rowing captain, are trying to arrange for monthly scratch races to keep the men in training. It is to be hoped that there will be a lot of entries.

A new stock of goods for the V.R.C. Gymnasium, such as boxing-gloves, fencing-sticks,

parallel-bars, etc., have arrived. The Gymnasium, by the way, ought to be used a great deal more.

The overwhelming victory at bowling of the Hongkong over the German Club was totally unexpected. Indeed, up to within a week of the match, the Germans were favourites. The good performances of the Hongkong Club team in practice inclined the balance of opinion somewhat in their favour, and after Friday night's roll a victory seemed probable; but a margin of 979 points was never dreamt of. Seeing that the differences of points in the matches for the present shield have been only 121 (1899), 374 (1900), 145 (1901), and 257 (1902), this year's figures are startling in their discrepancy. The first six individual scores were made by members of the winning team, Müller, the head German, having to be content with seventh place. The most creditable performance perhaps was that of Chater, whose 1462 was only 18 points behind the score of Hinds. For a newcomer in the team to do so well is more than unusual. The Hongkong Club has now won nine matches in all against the German Club's seven; and to win the present shield requires but one more match.

The only item as regards hockey this week is the Club's victory over the *Glory* on Wednesday by 2-1. There ought to be plenty of good matches in the near future preparatory to the Cup Competition (which comes off in January and February) as so many ships are in, besides which the 114th Mahrattas (the old 14th Bombay L.I.), who won the cup last year, are in from camp and will soon be seen in the field.

The fifth club race of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club takes place to-day and to-morrow; the championship class sailing to-day, and the one-designers and second class to-morrow. Of late weather has been extremely treacherous, varying from light gales to calms, in almost less time than it takes to write. It is to be earnestly hoped that wherever the wind blows from this afternoon, it will have sufficient force to ensure good sport, and be constant.

OMJAX.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. UNITED SERVICES.

Played on the Cricket Ground on Christmas Day and Saturday, this match ended in a draw. Scores and analysis were as follows:

H.K.C.C.

	First Innings.	Second Innings.
T. Sercombe Smith, c Chichester, b Williams	46	Campbell; b Williams
W. C. D. Turner, b Horsey	4	and b Williams
J. ' ' Dixon, c and b Williams	8	Chichester, b
H. Hancock, c Horsey, b Williams	15	Williams
R. Hancock (capt.), c Cornabe, b Barron	33	b Campbell
A. G. Ward, c Cornabe, b Barron	15	b Rimington
F. Maitland, b Barron	19	not out
E. Mast, b Barron	0	
W. Dixon, lbw, b Horsey	4	
J. Hooper, not out	5	
J. Lee, b Barron	6	Extras
	5	14
		Total 160 * Total 171

* Innings declared closed.

UNITED SERVICES.

	First Innings.	Second Innings.
Lieut. Heath, 114th Mah. c R. Hancock, b W. C. D. Turner	23	Dixon
Irwin, R.N., lbw, b W. Dixon	0	
Williams, R.N., b W. Dixon	0	
Horsey, R.N., b Sercombe Smith	59	st Turner, b H. Hancock
Lieut. Hawkins, R.N., c Dixon	15	
Campbell, R.N., c Turner, b Hancock	1	
Lieut. Cornabe, R.N., not out	38	lbw, b W. Dixon
Lieut. Barron, R.N., c Turner, b S. Smith	0	run out
Capt. Harris, R.M.A., b Sercombe Smith	0	
Lieut. Rimington, S.F., c S. Smith, b Dixon	0	
Major Chichester (capt.), lbw, b S. Smith	6	not out
Extras	7	Extras
		10
		8
		Total 149

(Total 168 Cricket) 168

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Horsey	15	2	44	2	4
Harris	6	19	—	15	1
Williams	10	1	38	3	54
Campbell	5	25	—	6	2
Barron	13	1	29	5	17
Rimington	—	—	—	15	3
				37	—
UNITED SERVICES.				1	4
				—	1
First Innings.					
O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.		
O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.		
J. T. Dixon	16	59	2	4	36
W. Dixon	16	4	48	2	10
E. Hancock	7	31	2	—	1
Sercombe Smith	5	4	4	5	26
H. Hancock	—	—	—	84	1

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v. THE NAVY.

On the 19th inst. on the Club ground at Happy Valley the Rugby section of the Hongkong Football Club played the Navy. There was a very large attendance of spectators. After a good game the Navy asserted their ancient superiority over the Club and won by one goal and one try to one try. The teams were as follows:

The Club—H. Arthur, full back; W. R. Robertson, O. J. Barnes, T. E. Pearce, K. A. Sclanders, three-quarters; Whitamore, A. Gordon, halves; H. E. Chard, E. D. C. Wolfe, H. C. Sandford, A. Boyd, Lt. M. R. Strover, J. Richardson, Lt. E. Rogers, Lt. S. B. Macdonald, forwards.

The Navy—Corsair, full back; Sartorius, De Paris, Lepage and King, three-quarters; Blackwood and Dampier-Child, halves; Hughes, Reeve, Cornabe, Danby, Formby, Boyle, Kilvert and Gorman, forwards.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

DRAWING OF GRIFFINS.

Sixteen subscription China pony griffins having arrived per s.s. *Hangsang*, they were drawn for at Kennedy's Causeway Bay Repository on the 16th inst. Mr. T. F. Hough, clerk of the course, conducted the proceedings, and a number of other members of the Jockey Club, including Sir C. P. Chater, and Messrs. J. P. Michael, J. H. Lewis, E. Kadoorie, Morris, Hart Buck, Mitchell and E. W. Rutter were present. Only five allotted subscribers remained to be supplied, so the remaining griffins were allotted to subscribers for two or more horses. The Jockey Club's numbers of the horses ranged between 40 and 55.

Arrangements were conducted by Mr. G. W. Gegg, manager of Kennedy Stables. The griffins, a fine-looking lot, were walked around during the proceedings. The horses and drawers were as follows:

40 (chestnut)	Mr. G. C. A. Master
41 (bay, white legs)	Mr. D. Dorabjee
42 (chestnut)	Mr. C. P. Chater (jun.)
43 (white)	Mr. R. Gubbay
44 (grey)	Mr. W. Domnich
45 (chestnut)	H. E. Mr. May
46 (grey)	Mr. T. Christiani
47 (grey)	Mr. G. W. Longuet
48 (bay)	Mr. E. L. Rutter
49 (chestnut)	Mr. A. Babington
50 (dun-roan)	Mr. C. H. Ross
51 (grey)	Mr. W. E. Grey
52 (chestnut)	Mr. E. L. Rutter
53 (pie-bald)	Mr. Hart Buck
54 (grey)	Mr. T. Christiani
55 (skew-bald)	Capt. Nugent

No. 40, drawn by Mr. G. C. A. Master, did the fastest time. She did the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in 1 minute 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds; the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in 33 seconds.

12 more subscription China ponies arrived by the s.s. *Choy sang* on Christmas Day, their numbers being 56 to 69, omitting 66 and 67. There were also the following ponies:—*Rare Rose*, for Mr. H. N. Mody's stable; *Polka*, *The Crow*, and *Set*, for Messrs. J. M.'s stable; *Dandy*, for Mr. H. N. Mody's stable (*Dandy* was the winner of four races at Hankow, including the championship); three Derby griffins for Mr. H. N. Mody's stable; two Derby griffins for Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's stable; two Derby griffins for Messrs. J. M.'s stable; two Derby griffins for Mr. J. H. Lewis's stable; one Derby griffin for

Mr. T. F. Hough; one Derby griffin, Mr. E. L. Rutter; *Discord* and *Muscate*, for Mr. J. H. Lewis. The drawing of the China ponies resulted as follows:

- 55 (black) Mr. J. H. Lewis.
- 57 (grey) Mr. J. H. Lewis.
- 58 (grey) Mr. W. E. Grey.
- 59 (chestnut) Mr. Ellis Kadoorie.
- 60 (chestnut) Mr. J. H. Lewis.
- 61 (black) Major Radcliff.
- 62 (grey) Major Radcliff.
- 63 (grey) Mr. Macdonald.
- 64 (bay, white-legs) Mr. W. E. Grey.
- 65 (bay; she did the best time of this lot) Mr. H. N. Mody.
- 68 (grey) Mr. Hinds.
- 69 (chestnut) Mr. Morgan Phillips.

POLO.

SCOTLAND v. IRELAND.

Contrary to expectations the polo match at Causeway Bay on Wednesday between the above teams proved a very one-sided affair; however, a fast game ensued.

First chukker.—From the throw-in Ross got away and scored a subsidiary goal. After the hit-out, give and take play took place in the Irish ground. His Excellency relieving time and again with well-placed shots. The Irish defence being stubborn and the Scotch attack persistent, no more scoring took place till four minutes had gone, when Simpson scored a beautiful goal with a long shot for Scotland. From the throw-in Carleton made a brilliant run down and scored a subsidiary goal, being well supported by his No. 1 riding off the opposing back. This ended the first chukker.

Second chukker.—From the hit out Ross went down and scored a goal. Practically the whole of this chukker was played in the Irish ground, their defence completely breaking down under the Scotch attack. The latter played well together and marked their opposite members perfectly. The game ended in an easy win for Scotland by 4 goals and 3 subsidiaries to 2 subsidiaries. Teams:

Scotland:—Mr. F. H. Lyon, R.N. (4) Mr. C. H. Ross (3), Lt. Simpson (2), and Mr. J. Johnstone (1).

Ireland:—Mr. T. Hastings (4), H.E. Mr. May (3), Capt. Carleton (2), and Lt. Knox, R.N. (1).

The final between England and Scotland will probably be played on Saturday next.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

TIMES OF 5TH CLUB RACE.

In the 5th club race sailed on the 20th inst. the times were as follows:

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.
Vernon	3	52	20
Elspeth	3	53	50
Aileen	3	57	22
Dione	gave up.		

ONE-DESIGN CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.
Kathleen	3	9	45
Colleen	3	14	47
Min	3	16	15
Erica	3	16	30
Bonito	3	27	24

SECOND CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.	Corrected
Alannah	3	33	30	scratch
(1) Gloria	3	34	35	3 28 10
(2) Chanticleer	3	47	3	26 22
Iris	3	39	58	
(3) Payne	3	40	54	3 27 9
Doreen	3	41	20	

POSITION UP TO DATE.

The position, with reference to this season's Championship, at present stands as follows:

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS.

	Vernon	Dione	Elspeth	Aileen
ONE-DESIGN CLASS.				
Kathleen	12	Erica	...	8
Min	11	Bonito	...	4
Colleen	2			

* These marks are excluding the 4th and 5th club races, the protests for which have not yet been decided.

SECOND CLASS.

	Payne	Gloria	Chanticleer	Doreen	Alannah	Iris
	22	12	21	1	18	1

HONGKONG CHESS CLUB.

On the 21st inst. a meeting of the Hongkong Chess Club was held in the room of the President, the Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., in Bank Buildings, to consider the position of the Club and arrange a programme for the coming season. The Hon. Treasurer showed that the financial condition was very satisfactory, there being some \$90 in hand; but the roll of membership had fallen off, mainly through departures from the Colony. It was decided to hold one meeting a week only in future, as likely to secure better attendance of members, and a varied programme of events was arranged, including a number of matches. The Club will meet hereafter every Wednesday evening in the City Hall Library at 5.15 o'clock. All chess-players desiring to become members are requested to send in their names to Mr. R. H. Newborn, Hon. Sec.

The Committee of the Hongkong Chess Club is now constituted as follows:—Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (President), Messrs. M. J. Danenburg (Hon. Treasurer), R. H. Newborn (Hon. Sec.), P. W. Sergeant, and E. J. Moses.

VOLUNTEER SHOOTING.

The December Carbine competition took place on the Tai Hang range on the 20th inst. firing commencing at 9.30 a.m. A strong cross wind rather spoiled the conditions; the shooting was not good. Best scores were made by Gunners L. C. Rees and A. J. Darby. Scores:

	200 yards	400 yards	500 yards	Total
Gunner L. C. Rees	2453224 (8)	3253423 (8)	5222222 (9)	80
				26
				86
Gunner A. J. Darby	4323444 (3)	0543434 (3)	2544343 (3)	27
				26
				28
				81

SOME CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES IN HONGKONG.

WITH THE SAILORS.

The kindness of many benevolent-minded local residents made a goodly number of seafaring-men enjoy a happy Christmas. The institutions connected with the Seamen's Church at West Point had a busy time on Christmas Day. S. Peter's Church had been tastefully decorated for the occasion by ladies of the congregation. A service, at which the seafaring community was well represented, was conducted in the morning. After tiffin, four launches, kindly lent for the occasion, were engaged in collecting men from the various ships, and taking them to Stonecutters' Island, where upwards of 250 men were assembled. Besides football, cricket, etc., a regular series of athletic events had been prepared by the Rev. T. Wright and others. Included in the events were a three-legged race, a boot race, wheelbarrow race, egg-and-spoon race, blindfolded race, arithmetic race, thread-and-needle race, and tug-of-war. The latter, hotly contested, proved the muscular superiority of the blue-jackets' team over a team of stokers, merchantmen and military. The moon had already risen when a start was made for the Seamen's Institute, Kowloon, where ladies had prepared for the return of

flowers, and Chinese lanterns were all requisitioned, and combined in rendering a most pleasing effect. Nearly two hundred members were present, and numerous friends, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. For those who did not feel equal to wooing Terpsichore there were card-tables provided. Among the novel features introduced during the evening were Highland reels by Mr. J. Sinclair. Supper was provided in one of the lower rooms. The officers who were responsible for the success of the function were:—Chief Inspector Baker, President; Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, Chairman; Inspector P. McNab, Vice-President; Sergeants Lee, Sergeant Floyd, Sergeant Hill, Police Constables Pitt, White, Cooper and Last, Committee. Sergeant Grant made an efficient M.C. The Hon. Sec., Sergeant McDonald, in conjunction with Inspector McNab, were indefatigable throughout the evening, and their exertions were well rewarded, the affair being quite up to the standard of any of its predecessors.

HONGKONG.

It is officially notified that Mr. J. H. Kemp, Passed Cadet, has been appointed Assistant Secretary to the Sanitary Board.

An official notification is published in the *Gazette* of the King's approval of the appointment of the Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson and the Hon. Basil R. H. Taylor as official members of the Legislative Council.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 20th December were 222 non-Chinese and 41 Chinese to the former, and 73 non-Chinese and 2,139 Chinese to the latter institution.

The Acting Colonial Secretary informed us on the 22nd inst. that he had received a telegram from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Batavia to the effect that quarantine against the arrivals from Hongkong has been removed.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government has withdrawn the proclamation of the 3rd ult. declaring Nagasaki to be a port at which an infectious or contagious disease prevails.

On the 20th inst. morning the dead body of an European was found on a piece of vacant ground on the Praya. It was identified as that of Dennis O'Rourke, 41 years of age, an unemployed seaman who had come out of gaol only on Saturday morning after having been imprisoned for several days for refusing to pay vehicle hire. It is presumed that the deceased had been drinking and lay down on the ground to sleep. Death was due to exposure.

J. S. Reben, who has been living at the Waverley Hotel, in Ice House Street, since the first of the month, was found dead in his bed in room No. 12. of the hotel on the 21st inst. From enquiries it was learnt that deceased was quite well and cheerful on Sunday, and had a guest with him to tiffin, going out with him afterwards. He was not seen to return to the hotel, but when his room-boy went into his room on Monday morning with his coffee he thought the deceased looked very strange, and immediately summoned the proprietress of the hotel, when it was found the man was dead. Information was immediately given to the police, and the body was taken over by them for the purposes of the necessary enquiry.

Last Monday morning there were married in Macao Mr. George C. Valpy; of the Federated Malay States service, and Miss Marian Dampney, daughter of the late Richard Dampney, of Melplash Court, Dorsetshire. The ceremony was performed at the English Chapel by the Rev. Mr. Barnett, chaplain. Mr. T. Lawson Moorhead, Assistant Commissioner of Customs at Lappa, gave the bride away. Miss Frances Moorhead was bridesmaid, and Mr. P. T. Allen, Straits Cadet, best man. The church was prettily decorated with chrysanthemums kindly lent from the Camoens Gardens. After the ceremony had been completed, a reception was held at the house of Mr. Moorhead, at which, as at the wedding itself, a great number of Macao's leading residents were present. Later on, amid general good wishes, the newly married couple left Macao for Hongkong by the steamer *Wingchai*.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint Arthur George Murchison Fletcher, cadet, to act as Assistant Registrar-General, with effect from and including the 10th instant.

Only medical inspection is now in force at Bangkok against arrivals from Hongkong, and the British Minister at Bangkok has informed His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government that there is no present intention of dispensing with such inspection.

The Cricket Club proposes to hold three dances—January 22nd, February 26th (race week), and March 11th, should sufficient inducement offer. Members and subscribers are invited to subscribe to them on the following conditions:—Members, \$25 for the three dances; subscribers, \$10 for each dance. Each member or subscriber to have the privilege of inviting two individual guests, who are not members or subscribers of the C.C.

A very decided success attended the annual ball of the institution of engineers and shipbuilders of Hongkong, held at the City Hall on the night of the 18th inst. Greenery, flowers, and bunting were tastefully displayed on the staircase and dancing room; the supper room was in tune with the rest. Those present numbered between 600 and 700 ladies and gentlemen. The band of the Sherwood Foresters was in attendance. Greatest credit is due to the able manner in which the various committees carried out the arrangements. The president, Mr. Donald Macdonald, and Mr. J. Miller, secretary, contributed greatly towards making the function appreciated. Messrs Murphy and Lambert, R.N.N., as M.C.'s did all that could have been desired. The president, secretary, and Mr. H. T. Richardson, by the way, had quite a task beforehand with decorations.

Financial returns published in the *Government Gazette* show the revenue of the Colony from January 1st to 31st October to have been \$4,301,618. A comparative statement of the revenue shows that under all the principal headings, with but one exception, the receipts were larger than for the same period of last year, the total of the increase being \$405,198. A decrease of \$35,322 is shown in "miscellaneous receipts." On the expenditure side we may note that the expenditure on the Sanitary Department had amounted at the end of October to \$363,059 as compared with \$173,022 for the same period last year. A substantial increase in expenditure is to be noted also in the medical departments, the figures being \$180,432 as compared with \$124,143. But next to the Sanitary Department the biggest increase (\$133,975) appears under the heading "Police, Fire Brigade, and Gaol." The cost of "miscellaneous services" decreased by \$629,900.

MISCELLANEOUS

A telegram dated Seoul, 11th December, says:—"The diplomats here believe that the Yalu district will be divided between Japan and Russia. Negotiations on this point are now progressing." Evidently Corea can entertain little doubt of her own future as a State.

On the 1st day of the December race meeting at Bangkok on the 8th inst. the King's Gold Cup was won rather easily by Mr. W. A. G. Tilleke's *Daisakorn*, Mr. Kasooji's *Wong Wai* being second, and the Siamese Crown Prince's *Oothai* third. The totalizer yielded 6 ticals. H. M. the King was an interested spectator of the race. All seven races in the first day were won by the same stable, Mr. W. A. G. Tilleke securing 6, and Mr. R. H. Gibbons one.

In view of the present war scare it is of interest to note that the new Japanese Infantry weapon, the Arisaka rifle, is very similar to the Mauser rifle. The reduction of the bore—the rifle's calibre is only 6.5 mm.—has admitted of a reduction of the weight of the weapon, without the bayonet, to 3.9 kilograms, which, in view of the short stature of the Japanese, is a decided improvement. Including the bayonet, the blade of which is 55 centimetres long, the rifle weighs 4.085 kilograms, and is 1,806 metres long. The hardened lead bullet has a velocity of 720 metres. The bore has six riflings, and the weapon is sighted from 400 to 2,000 metres.

An Anti-Russian Society has been started in Shanghai, called the *Tui Wo Hui*, and has already begun its propaganda by the publication of a daily newspaper called the *Wo Shih Ching-wen*, or "Startling Truths about Russian Matters."

At the Mixed Court, Shanghai, on the 14th inst., Tsao Mao-mow, who was implicated with the gang who gouged out the eyes of another Chinaman on the 28th of April, 1903, was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment and to receive five-hundred blows and at an interval of six months to receive five-hundred more.

Viceroy Yuan Shi-Kai was on the 5th inst. appointed by the Throne, by special wire, Commander in Chief of the Five Army Corps of the Empire, or all the forces of the Empire, a higher post than even that of the late Yung Lu. The *Peking and Tientsin Times* heartily congratulates His Excellency on this promotion.

The *Universal Gazette* hears that the Governor of Kwangsi has telegraphed to Peking, denouncing Viceroy Shum. The text of the telegram is such as has never been seen before, to the utmost surprise of the reader—whatever that may mean. The same paper also learns that Viceroy Shum recently wired to the Throne, that the Kwangsi rebellion is virtually suppressed and requested the Empress Dowager not to have any anxiety over the situation in Kwangsi or Kwangtung, and advised her to resist Russia by all possible means.

Owing to the more determined stand taken by the Chinese Government in regard to the Manchurian question, says a Peking despatch quoted in the *N.-C. Daily News*, the Russians at Moukden have resumed their high-handed manner of dealing with the Chinese officials there, which a short time ago had been much relaxed. The Tartar General Tseng Chi, it is now reported, is again circumscribed as to his liberty of action and has been refused again the use of the telegraph. In consequence of this the Peking Government was not able for two days to hear from Tseng Chi, although he was repeatedly asked to telegraph.

On the 14th inst. the 133rd performance of the Shanghai A.D.C. was given at the Lyceum Theatre, the play being Mr. H. V. Esmond's *One Summer's Day*. The cast was as follows, the assumed name of the amateurs (whom no doubt some of our readers will be able to trace) being put in brackets:—Major Dick Rudyard (Mr. V. de Maistre), Phil Marsden (Mr. Egidius), Theodore Bandysh (Mr. C. H. Philpott), Robert Hodgesen (Mr. George), Tom (Mr. Leslie), Seth (Mr. George Prince), The Urchin (Miss Dorothy Clive), Irene (Miss Jollyboy), Maysie (Miss Grace Thompson), Mrs. Theodore Bandysh (Miss Violet Woodhouse), Bess (Miss E. Weatherby), Chiara (Miss Clara Code).

With reference to the secret orders promulgated by the Throne to the various Viceroys and Governors of provinces to report how many modern-armed and disciplined troops could be sent up to Peking in the event of war with Russia, the *N.-C. Daily News* says a recent letter from the capital reports that replies have been received by the Grand Council from the high authorities of the following provinces:—Liangkiang (consisting of three provinces), Min-Ché (two provinces), Kwangtung, Hunan, Shantung, Shansi, Szechuan, Shensi, and Hukang (two provinces), and that the total number of first-class troops from the above provinces ready to go up to the North aggregates 90,000 men.

The *Kobe Chronicle* writes that in the latter half of this year the trade of Japan has continued in favour of exports, the excess of imports over exports having decreased to 28,210,000 yen from 46,000,000 yen in August last. Specie has begun to flow out of the country of late, notwithstanding that while the excess of imports over exports at one time exceeded 20,000,000 yen it has now fallen to 11,520,000 yen. The amount of specie in reserve at the Bank of Japan, which continued to stand at 116,000,000 yen until the beginning of last month, has now decreased by some 4,000,000 yen a condition of things which may be due to the large excess of imports over increase during the first half of the year, and to the fact that the money realised by the sale of Government bonds in London has now all been drawn. If the increase of exports over imports in the country's trade be continued it is thought the exodus of specie will probably cease before long.

The *Straits Times* hears that the Singapore Volunteer Rifles, formed three years ago, are to be disbanded at an early date.

The *Peking Times* says it hears on good authority that typhoid fever is general among the troops in Peking.

One of the latest ways of smuggling Chinese into the United States is sending them in cars engaged for shipping horses. Six Chinese were sent into Boston last month, but they were discovered.

The French Minister at Peking, M. Dubail, is reported to be vainly endeavouring to interpose in the Manchurian question and to persuade the Chinese Government to make some concession to Russia. "Some" is good.

Prince Su has earnestly recommended that the new tael coin be made the equivalent of 80 tael cents, and that ten of such coins represent one pound sterling as a fixed and permanent rate of exchange so as to avoid any future trouble with gold countries. The proposal is to be laid before the proper Boards and the Wai Wu Pu, who will discuss the matter with the Powers and see if it is feasible.

During the recent prize-firing by the Channel Fleet at Gibraltar, the *Majestic*, flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, made an astonishing record with her four 12-in. guns. Until this competition took place the *Ocean* (now in the Harbour) held the leading position in the Navy with 17 hits, but the *Majestic* made 23 hits for 37 rounds. There is no previous record of such rapid and accurate firing in the Navy with a 12-in. gun.

The reception of Sir Henry Blake in Colombo on the 3rd inst. is described as one of the most brilliant and interesting functions in that city for many years. Addresses were presented by the Legislative Council, the Municipal Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the native chiefs. In concluding his speech of thanks Sir Henry said:—"I earnestly pray that when the time comes when I shall lay down my burden of responsibility, your verdict will be that I have performed the duties of my office in a manner not unworthy of the many able British Governors who have ruled this grand old historic island for over a hundred years."

The N.C. *Daily News* learns from a special correspondent in Paris that the loan of 40,000,000 francs (£2,400,000), issued by a syndicate of banks for the railway from Chêng ingfu to Taiyuanfu was floated on Monday last, and subscribed several times over. This satisfactorily proves that it is not impossible at present to obtain the money required for railway enterprises in China. The bonds are of 500 francs each (£20), bearing 5 per cent. interest, and the syndicate is composed of the Russo-Chinese Bank, the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, the Société Générale, and the Comptoir National d'Escompte.

The Formosan budget for the coming fiscal year, which has been drawn up by the Formosan Government and approved by the Home and Finance Ministers of Japan, estimates the total revenue of the colony at 16,054,115 yen, an increase of 3,403,420 yen compared with the estimate for the present fiscal year. The ordinary expenditure is estimated at 1,880,878 yen, and the extraordinary expenditure at 8,086,621 yen, making a total of 22,967,499 yen, which is an increase of 3,291,389 yen over the amount estimated for the present year. Extraordinary expenditure includes 3,500,000 yen for the construction and improvement of Kelung harbour, and 500,000 yen for investigations in connection with land tenure.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkhill & Sons, in their circular 17th December, state:—The home markets are quiet. Raw Silk.—A few small settlements of Treatees are reported. Yellow Silks.—A fair business continues to be done in Mienchews and Mienyangs at unchanged rates. Steam Filatures.—Very little doing; the market is weak. Hand Filatures— are in small demand. A few settlements are reported at prices given below. Waste Silk.—We do not hear of any transactions.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 25th December.—The prices are advancing a little, market being firm.
Shakloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.65 to \$8.70 picul
" " 2, White.....7.60 to 7.65
" " 1, Brown.....6.05 to 6.10
" " 2, Brown.....5.90 to 5.95
Swatow, No. 1, White.....8.55 to 8.60
" " 2, White.....7.45 to 7.50
" " 1, Brown.....4.95 to 5.00
" " 2, Brown.....5.80 to 5.85
Foochow Sugar Candy.....12.90 to 12.95
Shakloong ".....10.75 to 10.80

RICE.

HONGKONG 25th December.—The upward tendency continues, large demands having come forward.
Saigon, Ordinary.....\$3.15 to \$3.20
" Round, Good quality.....4.85 to 4.90
" Long.....5.05 to 5.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....3.75 to 3.80
" Garden, " No. 1.....4.45 to 4.50
" White.....4.95 to 5.00
" Fine Cargo.....5.45 to 5.50

OPIUM.

24th December.—
Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.
Malwa New.....\$980 to \$980 per picul.
Malwa Old.....\$1,000 to \$1,020 do.
Malwa Older.....\$1,040 to \$1,060 do.
Malwa V. Old.....\$1,080 to \$1,100 do.
Persian fine quality.....\$810 to — do.
Persian extra fine.....\$820 to — do.
Patna New.....\$1,210 to — per chest.
Patna Old.....— to — do.
Benares New.....\$1,210 to — do.
Benares Old.....— to — do.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th Nov.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... \$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ... 120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ... 136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ... 155.00 to 170.00
Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.25
58 to 60 "	3.50 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	4.25 to 5.75
Fine.....	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds	5.00 to 8.00
per piece	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.30 to 2.80
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.50 to 3.00
6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.50 to 3.00
7 lbs. (32 "), "	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 14 lbs.	4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 lbs. 1.80 to 4.00

Brocades—Dyed — to —

DAMASKS.

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.12 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.28 to 0.47
Velveteens—18 in.	0.19 to 0.23

	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.30 to 3.00

WOOLLENS.

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chocks	0.77 to 2.25
German	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.50

	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.95 to 9.30
Assorted	7.10 to 9.45

	12.50 to 33.00
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 33.00

	12.50 to 22.50
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	Assorted

	10.00 to —
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —

	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.80 to 0.80
Fine quality	1.25 to 1.85

METALS.

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.25 to —
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)	4.25 to —
Swedish Bar	4.80 to —
Small Round Rod	4.80 to —
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	6.50 to —
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.60 to —
Wire Rope, Old	8.00 to —

METALS.

	per picul
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	9.00 to —
Australian	9.00 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz	14/20 oz. 41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Composition Nails	61.00 to —
Japan, Copper, Slabs	38.50 to —
Tin	82.00 to —

	per box
Tin-Plates	7.80 to —
	per cwt. cass
Steel 1/2 to 1	6.80 to —

	per picul
Quicksilver	164.00 to —

	per box
Window Glass	4.50 to —

The Kobe Market Report of the 16th inst. contains the following:—Cotton.—The market has ruled very quiet during the fortnight both for Indian and American staples, and but little business is reported. Quotations are slightly easier after a strong advance. A fair business, however, has been done in Chinese, both "spot" and forward, at prices ranging from Yen 27.50 to Yen 30 per picul according to grade. Grey Shirtings.—There is a little better feeling in the market. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Market quiet and steady. Several fresh inquiries are reported, but dear-home prices prevent any large business being booked. Worsteds and Woollens.—Market quiet. Window Glass.—Continues dull. Metals.—Market quiet and prices a little weaker. Chemicals.—Match Chemicals unchanged. Sugar.—Hongkong Refined.—Owing to the decline in the local market, business has been impossible. German Beet.—Market dull and a further drop in prices for "Hungarian." The question of an increase of the Inland Tax on sugar has, through the dissolution of the Diet, been set at rest for the present. Osaka Refined.—At the Auction on the 13th inst., 12,200 bags were disposed of, the prices realized showing an average decline of 43 sen per bag from last sales. Rice.—Not much doing. Kerosene.—A good demand continues.

HONGKONG, 6th November.

The latest imports for this port are:—1,100 tons of flour, and 500 tons of general per s.s. *Indrapura* from Portland Oregon; 20 tons of tobacco per s.s. *Yuensang* from Manila; 8,000 tons of coal per s.s. *Hopsang* from Hongkong; 140 pigs, 58 bullocks, and 300 tons of general per s.s. *Hoitao* from Haiphong and Hoitao; 150 tons of hemp per s.s. *Shawmut* from Manila; 1,900 tons of rice per s.s. *Chow Fa* from Bangkok; 300 tons of general per s.s. *Progress* from Quinhon, and Hoi How; 25 tons of general per s.s. *Macau* from Kwong Chow Wan, and Macau; 300 tons of Kerosene oil per s.s. *Shantung* from Foochow.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 16th December.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected (Winter cargo) Tls.	34.00
Do. seconds	28.50
Buffalo hides, best selected	28.00
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour),	65.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3 lbs. each)	10.75
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)	11.50
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu)	10.50
Green China Grass (Szechuen)	11.75
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow)	11.50
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchew and/or Machéng)	11.20
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu)	9.75
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	14.00
Animal Tallow	11.50
Gallnuts (usual shape)	19.50
Do. (Plum) do.	20.60
Black Bristles	120.00
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck)	20.00
Turmeric	3.60
Sesamum Seed	4.20
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	7.90
Wood Oil	8.00
Tea Oil	9.00

Per P. & O. Steamer *Ballaarat*, sailed on 19th December. For London:—150 bales waste silk, 65 bales raw silk, 6 cases silk piece goods, 5 cases cigars, 3 cases feathers, 9 cases tea and lychus. For London and/or Manchester:—75 bales waste silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—206 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—155 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 5 cases silks. For Manchester:—350 bales waste silk.

Per P. & O. Steamer *Manila*, sailed on 24th December. For London:—60 half-chests tea (Amoy), 3,410 boxes tea, 22 packages tea, 30 bales canes, 1 cases bird feathers, 100 bales waste silk, 10 cases blackwoodware, 8 cases sundries. For Glasgow:—52 bales canes. For London and/or Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—350 bales waste silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 24th December, 1903.—Owing to the Christmas holidays our report is issued a day earlier than usual. During the interval, demand has ruled somewhat erratic, but a fair enquiry has existed throughout for some of our principal stocks, more particularly Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, which close firm at an advance.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have weakened, owing doubtless to the fear of political complications in the north, and a few shares are now obtainable at \$665. London has receded to £63. Nationals are firmer and can now be placed at \$31.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue on offer at \$490. China Traders have weakened, and can now be procured at \$56. North Chinas, Yangtzes, and Cantons are unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have sold and are still obtainable at \$310. Chinas have improved, and after sales at \$90 are enquired for at \$91.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have sold at \$32, and are now in the market at \$31 $\frac{1}{2}$. Indo-Chinas are quiet locally at \$76. The latest wire from the North quotes sellers at Tls. 54. China and Manilas and Douglasses are unchanged with sellers at \$18 and \$30 respectively. Star Ferries (old) have been booked at \$30; the new scrip is unchanged at \$19. Shell Transports have been taken off the market at 22/6 and 23/-, closing with sellers at the latter rate.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$104 and \$105, and are still to be had at the higher rate. Luzons are unchanged at \$10 sellers.

MINING.—No business has transpired under this head, and quotations are more or less nominal.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have sold at \$204, \$206, \$207 $\frac{1}{2}$ and \$280, and are in further request at the latter rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have improved to \$97 with probable buyers. Faruhams have weakened, the latest quotation from the north being sellers at Tls. 116 ex the interim dividend of Tls. 5 per share on account of year ending 30th April 1904, paid on the 22nd instant.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at \$157, \$158, and again at \$157, and a few more shares are offering at the latter rate. Kowloon Lands are still in request at \$35. West-Points have sold at \$52. Humphreys Estates are firmer with sales and buyers at \$11. Hongkong Hotels are unchanged with sales and further sellers at \$148.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos are procurable at Tls. 34 ex the dividend of Tls. 4 per share for year ending 31st October, 1903, paid in Shanghai on the 22nd instant. Hongkongs are still enquired for at \$15 $\frac{1}{2}$.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been booked at \$24 $\frac{1}{2}$ and \$25 closing with sellers at the higher rate. China Borneos have improved to \$8 $\frac{1}{2}$ buyers. Fenwicks are firmer with sales and further buyers at \$49. Ropes continue in request at \$145. Providents have been done at \$94, and Watkins at \$7 $\frac{1}{2}$, the latter closing in further request.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	(\$665, sellers L'don, £63. Os.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$31, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$31, buyers
Foun. Shares...	21	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$490, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$56, sellers
North China	225	Tls. 219
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Canton	\$50	\$175
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$90 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Shipsteam Coys—		
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$31 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$76
China and Manila...	\$50	\$18, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$30, sellers
Star Ferry	10	\$30, sales
\$5	19	
Shell Transport and	21	23/- sellers
Trading Co.		
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$105, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$1.50, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	30 cents
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	50 cents, sellers
Rauba	18/10	\$8, sellers
Decks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	208, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$97, sellers
New Amoy Dock ...	63	\$38, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 116, ex div.,
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$157, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, buyers
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$52 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$148, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate....	\$10	\$11, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, ex div.
International ...	Tls. 75	Tls. 25, buyers
Laon Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170, sales
Hongkong	\$10	\$15 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ld.	\$50	\$15
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$25, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	\$12	\$8 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$14 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales & buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
\$5	7	
Hongkong & C. Gas....	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$49, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$245, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$300, ex div.,
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ld.	\$10	\$15 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6	\$5, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales
Watkins Ld.	\$10	\$7 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ld.	\$10	\$5
Powell, Ld.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ld.	\$50	\$50
Canton, Hongkong Ice Cigar Companies—	\$10	\$10, nominal
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$250
Phipine Tobacco Trust Co., Ld.	\$50	\$15, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 18th December.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their share report for the week ending 18th December state:—We have again to report a good business in our principal stocks: Farnhams, Langkats, and Indo-Chinas, but the dealing has been principally caused by the short sellers for December covering their sales. In Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves we have to report a very considerable rise in rates, the market closing at the end of last week with sales for March at Tls. 185/195. To-day business has been done for March at Tls. 227 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 225. Business in this stock has been almost entirely confined to forward sales, only a limited business being done for cash. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/4.8/34. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.

A local sale has been effected at \$665 ex. 73; in the south the quotation is \$675 buyers. Marine Insurance.—The only business reported is in North Chinas at Tls. 220, and Yangtzes at \$185. Fire Insurance.—Market purely nominal for both Hongkong and China Fires at quotations. There are sellers of China Fires locally. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. Shares have been placed for December at Tls. 55 and 56. On the 16/17th market weakened slightly, resulting in sales at Tls. 55 and 54 $\frac{1}{2}$. To-day business has been done at 54 April. Shanghai Tugs. Preference shares have again been placed at Tls. 47 $\frac{1}{2}$. Docks and Wharves.—A considerable business has been done in Farnhams. The market opened on the 11th with sales at Tls. 118 and 117 $\frac{1}{2}$ cash. 118/120/118 December. 119/118 March. 121 April and May. 12th at 122 $\frac{1}{2}$ cash. 125 Dec. 125, 127 March. 14th, 128 $\frac{1}{2}$ cash. 129 Dec. 129 $\frac{1}{2}$ March. 130 April. 15th, 124 cash. 127, 126 Dec. 130, 128, 129, 127 March. 128 April. 16th, 125 Dec. 127 $\frac{1}{2}$, 127 March. 128 April. 17th, 126, 127 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dec. 127, 127 $\frac{1}{2}$ March. 128 April. S. & H. Wharves. On the 11th the market opened with cash sales at Tls. 195, with sales for March at 195, 190, 192 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 195. On the 12th March shares again fetched 195. 14th, March shares were placed at Tls. 200, and on the 15th at Tls. 207 $\frac{1}{2}$. 16th a sale for cash was made at 215 with sales for March at Tls. 215 and 217 $\frac{1}{2}$. On the 17th December and March shares were placed at Tls. 220, and for April at 222 $\frac{1}{2}$. To-day 227 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 225 March are reported. Yangtze Wharves and Godowns. Buyers offer 197 $\frac{1}{2}$ for shares. Sellers at 200. Sugars.—No business to report. Mining.—Ditto. Lands.—A sale of Shanghai Lands took place at Tls. 104 cash. Industrial.—In Cotton stocks a sale of Soy Chees has been made at Tls. 170, and in Low Kung Mows at Tls. 40, and shares are offering at this rate. Ewos are obtainable at Tls. 37 $\frac{1}{2}$. Shanghai Paper and Pulps have been placed at Tls. 105 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Shanghai Gas at Tls. 107. Ices at Tls. 14. Maatschappij, &c. in Langkats. The market opened on the 11th with sales at 310/307 $\frac{1}{2}$ cash and 327 $\frac{1}{2}$ March. 12th March shares were placed at 330. 14th, cash shares were placed at 317 $\frac{1}{2}$. March at 330. 15th at 315, 307 $\frac{1}{2}$, 310, 312 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 315 December. Sales at 325 have been done, 322 $\frac{1}{2}$, 325, 330 March. 16th, 310 cash, 315, 312 $\frac{1}{2}$, 310 December. 322 $\frac{1}{2}$, 330, 325 March. 17th 310 and 312 $\frac{1}{2}$ December. 329, 327 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 330 March. The market closes steady with buyers at 312 $\frac{1}{2}$ and for March at 330. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz have been placed at \$33, 10 and 33, Centrals at \$27. Moutries \$55. Miscellaneous.—The only business reported is in Telephones at Tls. 67. Loans and Debentures.—Astor House 8 per cent. Debentures have been placed at par.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 24th December.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer

1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Bank Bills, on demand

1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight

1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight

1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Credits, at 4 months' sight

1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$

Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight

1/9 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand

215 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON GERMANY.—Credits 4 months' sight

219

On demand

175

ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand

41 $\frac{1}{2}$

Credits, 60 days' sight

42 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer

127 $\frac{1}{2}$

Bank, on demand

127 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer

127

Bank, on demand</

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.
ARRIVALS.

December—

19. Amigo, German str., from Pakhoi.

19. Australian, British str., from Sydney.

19. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.

19. Glenfalloch, British str., from Straits.

19. Guthrie, British str., from Australia.

19. Ichang, British str., from Chefoo.

19. Kansu, British str., from Tongku.

19. Lodsen, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.

19. Paul Blan, French str., from Singapore.

19. Simongan, Dutch str., from Samarang.

19. Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.

19. Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.

19. Tingsang, British str., from Chinkiang.

19. Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.

19. Waterwitch, British s.v., from Mirs Bay.

20. Aragonia, German str., from Shanghai.

20. Ayr, British str., from Moji.

20. China, Austrian str., from Kobe.

20. Fausang, British str., from Wuhu.

20. Ha-ching, British str., from Swatow.

20. Hipsang, British str., from Chinkiang.

20. Hue, French str., from Haiphong.

20. Kaga Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.

20. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

20. Kweilin, British str., from Chinkiang.

20. Loksang, British str., from Chinkiang.

20. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.

20. M. Struve, German str., from Haiphong.

20. Prometheus, British str., from Shanghai.

20. Szechuen, British str., from Tientsin.

20. Taiwan, British str., from Chinkiang.

20. Trocas, British str., from Singapore.

20. Wosang, British str., from Tientsin.

21. Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.

21. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.

21. Konig Albert, Ger. str., from Shanghai.

21. Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.

21. Palgrave, British str., from New York.

21. Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.

21. Radnorshire, British str., from London.

21. Rubi, British str., from Manila.

22. Anping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

22. Empress of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.

22. Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.

22. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.

22. Hunan, British str., from Wuhu.

22. Nanchang, British str., from Iloilo.

22. Shantung, German str., from Singapore.

22. Sperber, German gunboat, from Saigon.

23. Chiayen, Chin-se str., from Canton.

23. Clam, British str., from Batu Papan.

23. Haitoong, British str., from Swatow.

23. Manila, British str., from Yokohama.

23. Maria Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.

23. Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.

23. Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.

23. Sullbarz, German str., from C. efoo.

23. Tailee, German str., from Dehli.

23. Tamsui, British str., from Canton.

23. Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.

23. Tientain, British str., from Canton.

23. Yaneyama Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.

24. Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.

24. Daunteros, German str., from Wuhu.

24. Else, German str., from Hoihow.

24. Esang, British str., from Wuhu.

24. Fearless, British cruiser, from Saigon.

24. Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.

24. Hano, French str., from Haiphong.

24. Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.

24. Hong Bee, British str., from Singapore.

24. Indrasamha, British str., from Manila.

24. Kageshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.

24. Lowther Castle, Brit. str., from Foochow.

24. Perla, British str., from Manila.

24. Phu Yen, French str., from Saigon.

24. Sirocco, British str., from Batoum.

24. Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Amoy.

25. Bayern, German str., from Hamburg.

25. Chas. Tiberghien, Fr. str., from N. York.

25. Chrysang, British str., from Shanghai.

25. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.

25. Elita Nossack, Ger. str., from Moji.

25. Hailan, British str., from Coast Ports.

25. Jolimont, French str., from Haiphong.

25. Kaiming, British str., from Wuhu.

25. Laijin, German str., from Chinkiang.

25. Mandala, German str., from Hoihow.

25. Mansang, German str., from Sandakan.

25. Meccoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

25. Minan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

25. Nyan, British str., from Rangoon.

26. Benledi, British str., from London.

26. Euplectela, British str., from Nagasaki.

26. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.

26. Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.

December— DEPARTURES.

19. Ballarat, British str., for Europe.

19. Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.

19. Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.

19. Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.

19. Glenroy, British str., for London.

19. Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.

19. Johanne, Norwegian str., for Pakhoi.

19. Laertes, British str., for Saigon.

19. Prometheus, Norwegian str., for Kobe.

19. Sishan, British str., for Swatow.

19. Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.

19. Tremont, American str., for Tacoma.

19. Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.

19. Wakamatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.

19. Zafiro, British str., for Manila.

20. Kashing, British str., for Shanghai.

20. Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.

20. Petrarch, Ger. str., for Kwangchauwan.

20. Prosper, Norwegian str., for Tsintau.

20. Vindobona, Austrian str., for Kobe.

21. Szechuen, British str., for Canton.

22. Amara, British str., for Moji.

22. Anping, Chinese str., for Canton.

22. Ayr, British str., for Moji.

22. Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., for Calcutta.

22. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.

22. Eliz. Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.

22. Fausang, British str., for Canton.

22. Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.

22. Guthrie, British str., for Kobe.

22. Hipsang, British str., for Canton.

22. Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.

22. Kweilin, British str., for Canton.

22. Loksang, British str., for Canton.

22. Petrarch, Ger. str., for Kwangchauwan.

22. Prometheus, British str., for London.

22. Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.

22. Shakano Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.

22. Taishan, British str., for Swatow.

22. Taishan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

22. Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.

22. Wosang, British str., for Canton.

23. Aragonia, German str., for Hamburg.

23. Australian, British str., for Shanghai.

23. China, Austrian str., for Trieste.

23. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.

23. Heim, Norwegian str., for Singapore.

23. Hue, French str., for Haiphong.

23. Konig Albert, German str., for Europe.

23. Kweiyang, British str., for Cebu.

23. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Anping.

23. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.

23. Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.

23. Trocas, British str., for Shanghai.

24. Clavering, British str., for San Francisco.

24. Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.

24. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.

24. M. Struve, German str., for Haiphong.

24. Nanchang, British str., for Shanghai.

24. Radnorshire, British str., for Shanghai.

24. Tamsui, British str., for Shanghai.

24. Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.

25. Chiayen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

25. Clam, British str., for Shanghai.

25. Clavering, British str., for San Francisco.

25. Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.

25. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.

25. Lowther Castle, British str., for N. York.

25. Lyseemoon, German str., for Shanghai.

25. Maria Rickmers, Ger. str., for Hoihow.

25. Michael Jebson, Ger. str., for Hoihow.

25. Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.

25. Nanchang, British str., for Swatow.

25. Pbu Yen, French str., for Hongay.

25. Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.

25. Shantung, German str., for Shanghai.

26. Bayern, German str., for Shanghai.

26. Bingo Maru, Japanese str., for London.

26. Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.

26. Simongan, Dutch str., for Amoy.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Ballarat, from Shanghai, for London. Mr. W. G. Smith; for Singapore, Messrs. J. W. Campbell and G. S. Casson; for Hongkong, Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. St. Clair, Messrs. A. E. Blanco, G. Girault, A. Myers, A. S. W. Ringhardt, Paul, W. E. Brady, C. St. Clair, J. Benna and F. C. Budd; from Yokohama, for London, Surgeon M. Breton; for Marseilles, Mr. Saitoh; from Kobe, for London, W. A. Bevington; for

Singapore, J. B. Girmalomed; from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. Bastien.

Per Coromandel, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Measor, child and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Garrod, Lance-Sergt. and Mrs. Kain, Sergt. and Mrs. McHardy, Mrs. G. Scoggan, Mrs. Penfold and infant, Messrs. Holborow, Stevenson, and G. F. Langford, Sergts. Terrell and Fenton; from Marseilles, Messrs. J. Fisher and Hugo Russ, Lieut. R. M. Burmeister; from Bombay, Mr. H. Cawasji; from Colombo, Mr. Truhween; from Singapore, Dr. T. M. Landor, Messrs. Jas. Walker, L. S. Lewis, P. Boyd, and T. M. Perpetuo; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. and Mrs. G. Crank, Mr. and Mrs. Sturte, Mr. and Mrs. Bleacherhassett and four children, Mrs. Wheeler and infant, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Mace and two children, Misses Craighead and D. Craig, Messrs. G. A. Clatworthy, and A. Penfold, Staff-Sergts. Meanwell and Clarke, Sergt. C. Norwood, and Corp. E. Weekes; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Simon, G. G. and Mr. Sai Vita; for Yokohama, from London, Messrs. D. White and G. B. Franklin; for Marseilles, Mr. G. H. Chipps.

Per Empress of China, from Vancouver, Mr. C. D. Wilkinson; from Victoria, Ensign Comdr. and Mrs. A. V. B. B. and Mrs. M. Kirkwood; from Yokohama, Messrs. M. M. Bidder, H. W. Tse, and Staff-Sergt. Fa-ken, R. N.; from Kobe, Major Bush, Capt. Haines, Lieut. J. T. Blake, R. N., Mr. and Mrs. C. Catlin; from Nagasaki, Dr. A. T. T. and Mr. A. Lion; from Shanghai, Mr. J. M. Alves, Mr. and Mrs. Talati, Misses O. P. Bland, Miss A. Allanson, Messrs. E. T. Palmer, Mr. Ferrano, F. Salinger, V. A. C. Hawkins, R. D. Miller, Rutledge, E. H. J. Hogg, Mr. J. Leveson, G. G. Hepler, and Perrusse.

DEPARTURES.

Per Ballarat, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. Goodbody, H. D. D. B. and C. G. King, and Lieut. E. R. Jones; for Penang, Mr. W. Meakin; for Port Said, Dr. and Mrs. J. Zimmerman, Dr. J. R. St. John, Messrs. T. J. Goulden and Gabriel Vidulich; for Brindisi, Mrs. Deblangy, Mr. and Miss Frank Vanderpool, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Gray and child, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. E. Storey, Misses Lewis, A. Burns, Dupuy, and Young, Dr. Heberle, Messrs. J. G. Thomson, David Evans, C. W. Bailey, E. P. Long, J. B. Fishburn, J. O. Hutchinson, J. Long, Minisini, and D. Wilson; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Crawford, Miss M. Crawford, and Miss K. A. Sanborn; for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. Andrews, child and infant, Mrs. J. R. Scott, Sub-Lieut. Chas. W. Craven, R. B. Ramsey, G. H. Dennis-town, J. H. K. Clegg, F. L. Back, and C. T. L. Nooks, Messrs. A. L. Black, H. Robbins, R. N. L. B. Goldsmith, James Scott; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Messrs. J. W. Campbell, R. N., G. S. Casson; for London, Mr. W. G. Smith; from Kobe, for Singapore, Mr. J. B. Girmalomed; for London, Mr. A. Bevington; from Yokohama, for Marseilles, Mr. Saitoh; for London, Surgeon Moryle Breton.

Per Konig Albert, from Hongkong, for Bremen, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Scoult, Mr. and Mrs. Barton, Mrs. H. Day, Mr. and Mrs. F. Fayerweather, Mrs. R. F. O. Feltz, Mrs. S. H. Hayashita, Mrs. Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Knapp, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Porter, Dr. and Mrs. Salomon, Mr. and Mrs. H. Harker, Taylor, Highgate, Maharajah von Kapurthala, Her Highness Rani von Kapurthala, Dr. Hohenberg, Dr. W. W. Innes Lillingston, Dr. F. G. Mill, Inspector Metzenthin, General Major von Rohrholz, Major Fernando Rodrigues, Capt. Wuthmann, Mr. P. Bouman and Miss A. Bouman, Misses H. and K. Brive, Fuller, Mary Funk, Miss K. Matzner, Miles, Ratte, F. J. and J. S. S. Squire, and Dorothy Wisdom, Messrs. A. Bjornsted, Geo. Butler, J. W. Cooper, Dr. Edgar, Stafford Hill, W. S. Inauro, Dr. Lunghaus, Patrick Kelly, Mr. P. Keston, Mr. A. Kind, Alex. Kappel, Mayor and Council, F. C. de Menezes and child, Lolo Ihor, Mr. E. Piel, James Roberts, N. T. Samuels, Dr. H. Schaefer, Arthur Sparrow, Felix Saito, Dr. Weber, and Marine Ober-Ingenieur Arnold.

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